

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

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## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Far Eastern News .....	97
Leading Articles:—	
England and the Opium Question .....	98
Budget Speculations in England .....	98
Signs of Trade Revival .....	98
Corruption at Peking .....	99
The Policy of the United States in Asia .....	100
Random Reflections .....	100
Hongkong News .....	101
An Armed Robbery Charge .....	101
Sanitary Board .....	102
Hongkong Branch of the China Association .....	102
St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon .....	103
Supreme Court .....	104
The Harbour Master and Debased Coinage .....	106
Anglo-Portuguese School Silver Jubilee .....	107
The Recent Armed Robberies .....	108
Great Britain and Tibet .....	108
Canton News .....	108
The Holocaust at Canton .....	108
Company Reports:—	
Humphreys Estate and Finance Company .....	108
Kowloon Land and Building Company Ltd. .....	109
Shipping Notes .....	109
Far Eastern Telegrams .....	109
Commercial .....	110
Shipping .....	112

## BIRTHS.

On January 22nd, at Shanghai, the wife of M. W. TAFFENBERG, of a son.  
On January 24th, at Shanghai to Mr. and Mrs. JAMIESON, a daughter.  
On January 25th, at Shanghai, the wife of Wm. MOWAT LAW, of a son.  
To Mr. and Mrs. G. HUYGEN, a daughter, HEDWIG, at Canton, 31st January, 1909.

## MARRIAGES.

On January 22nd, at Shanghai, WALTER BURT ANDREWS, to EDITH SARAH WATKINS, both of Shanghai.  
On January 25th, at Shanghai, HENRY GEORGE HILL to IDA BIBERMAN, Moir, Western Russia.  
On January 26th, at Shanghai, ARCHIBALD WILLIAM BRANSTON to ELIZABETH DOOLEY, of Manchester, England.

## DEATH.

On January 2nd, suddenly, at Annfield, Rothesay, JAMES HALL (late of Shanghai), in his 61st year.

## Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD C.L.  
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

## ARRIVAL OF MAIIS.

The English Mail of the 8th January and the parcel Mails closed in London for despatch by the all sea route on the 30th Dec., and for despatch overland on the 6th Jan. arrived per s.s. *Britannia*, on the 4th inst.

## FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Heavy snow fell at Hankow on the 20th ult. and at 4 a.m. the thermometer was at 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

An official notification has been received in Hongkong that Singapore has been declared free of quarantine restrictions.

Among the passengers from England by the P. and O. mail steamer which arrived yesterday were the Rt. Rev. Bishop Price of Foochow, and the Rt. Rev. Dr. Boutflower, the newly-appointed Bishop of South Tokyo.

The Chinese Government are reported to have engaged for six years three American financial experts, Messrs. Hatch, Gulfoyle, and Grant, who are at present devising means for an issue of Chinese Imperial money, both in bank notes and coinage.

Japanese papers report that despite the great caution exercised by the Chinese Government the smuggling of arms at Macao, Amoy, Canton, and Swatow is still being carried on, and the number of Chinese junks captured for carrying arms is on the increase.

The Filipino Chamber of Commerce has cabled to the resident Filipino commissioners in Washington asking them that they petition the Congress of the United States for the suspension for the period of three years of the tax imposed on live cattle imported into the Philippine island.

The Government, says *Chinese Public Opinion*, intends to start compulsory education in the Metropolis next Spring, but the Board of Education finds that there are serious financial difficulties in the way, as there are some 148,000 houses in Peking and, assuming each house to send one child to school and each school to hold 100 children, over one thousand schools would be required.

The King has granted his Royal licence and authority to the following gentlemen to accept and wear the decorations conferred upon them in recognition of valuable services rendered by them:—Mr. Walter Thurlow Lay, Commissioner in the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service and Mr. Edward Vincent Brenan, a Deputy Commissioner in the same service, the Insignia of the First Class of the Third Division of the Imperial Chinese Order of the Double Dragon, conferred upon them by the Emperor of China.

The Swatow correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News*, writing on developments at that port, says:—The Imperial Customs' ground is being rapidly occupied with houses built for the foreign staff. Mr. S. H. Harris, the late Commissioner, who is now at Kowloon, will long be remembered as the 'Building Commissioner.' A new Post Office, new examination shed, new houses for the Harbour master, and the outdoor staff, a new signal tower, and a new steam launch, are monuments to his professional zeal, and his care for the comfort of his subordinates. In a short time the service will have a complete and self-contained plant, the result of his foresight and broad views. At the back Swatow is extending rapidly along the deep creek. Godowns are being erected, and new streets formed, not in bewildering variety as in the old days, but on a system, controlled by the police, and here again the hand of the late Commissioner is seen. A Commissioner can do much to secure harmony of aim among the landholders in such a place as this, and he secured it. We want now a leader who will persuade the Chinese into a national system of municipal government which will enlist the help, and so the contributors of the foreign community.—*Verb. Sap.*"

On Thursday at the Kawasaki Dockyard, Kobe, the first of three sister ships, built to the order of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, is to be launched. These ships are to be 6,000 tons gross and to have a displacement of 11,500 tons. *Tacoma-Maru* is the name to be given the ship launched to-day.

Mrs. Beatrice Mauricia Anderson and Mr. Walter George Stevenson, now of Manila, were married at Christ Church, Yokohama, on the 25th ult. The preliminary ceremony took place at the British Consulate General, Mr. John Carey Hall, H.B.M.'s Consul-General, performing the ceremony. The witnesses were the bride's brother-in-law, Mr. H. D. Jones, Manager of the Yokohama branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and Sir Claude MacDonald, G.C.V.O., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., H.B.M.'s Ambassador to Japan.

Mr. John Noble, of Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, the well known shipbuilders and gunmakers, is on a visit to Japan accompanied by Mrs. Noble. Mr. Noble came out via Siberia joining his wife on board a N. D. Lloyd steamer in China. Mr. John Noble has come out to inspect the new steel works at Muroran, a joint enterprise of his firm and Vickers, Sons & Maxim, and the Hokkaido Tanco Kisen Kaisha. He will shortly be joined by Mr. Albert Vickers who, by the way, was recently elected Master Cutler of Sheffield. The new works will shortly be started and will be devoted to the production of highclass steel for gun forgings, etc. It will be under the direction of experts from the Imperial Japanese Navy with the assistance of specialists from the English works. Mr. Noble will also inspect the Explosive Factory at Hiratauwa, which is just starting the manufacture of cordite for the Japanese Government. These works have been built by Armstrong, Whitworth & Co. in conjunction with the Nobel Explosive Co., of Ardeer, Scotland. In both the above cases the Japanese Government is pledged to support the enterprise by the purchase of a certain quantity of the output annually.

We have received a copy of the annual report of the Leper Home founded at Tungkun, South China, in 1905 under the charge of Dr. John E. Kuhne, M.B.C.M. The average daily number of inmates during the past year was 124. The debit balance, which at the end of September 1906, was \$10,908, has been reduced to \$6,502. Grants amounting to \$1,930 were made by the Edinburgh and London Mission to Lepers. The Chinese Community of Hongkong contributed \$1,758 and the annual subscriptions from the officials in Canton amount to \$1,024. The report is illustrated with portraits and photographic views of the settlement, but the plates, the smaller ones particularly, are poor and not well printed. Particulars are given in it of many of the cases under treatment and the Director confirms the statement of the Indian Commission that the disease is contagious but not hereditary. His inquiries go to show that 155 patients out of 167 have a clean family history. Some observations are recorded in the report on experiments with nastin, but the experiments have not been sufficiently extensive to enable him to give an opinion on the subject and an appeal is made for a sum to enable a new supply of nastin to be bought for this purpose.

## ENGLAND AND THE OPIUM QUESTION.

(*Daily Press*, February 1st.)

We wonder what prompted REUTER'S Agency to inform the East that the Bishop of London together with the Nonconformist and Scottish religious leaders have made an appeal throughout the United Kingdom for special prayers for the eradication of the opium traffic while the International Commission on the Opium Question is sitting at Shanghai? Various suggestions occur. Was it merely to show us that the race of the immortal Pecksniff still survives? Or was it but to give us some idea of the exaggerated views of the opium evil which the Anti-Opium League has been successfully propagating in order to draw for foreign missions the support which is so sadly needed at home? There is no Society in England interested in publishing such facts as the careful analysis made by Mr. CLEMENTI revealed. If Mr. CLEMENTI's paper did but come under the notice of the Bishop of London and the Nonconformist and Scottish religious leaders who are appealing for special prayers for the eradication of the opium evil, they would perhaps perceive how ridiculous their attitude must seem to those who can compare the drink evil in England with the opium evil in China. Unfortunately no comparison of statistics can be made, because no reliable statistics of the native opium trade are published by the Chinese Government, and, for the matter of that, the literature of the Anti-Opium League in England on which British sentiment on the subject is so carefully fed and nurtured, takes small account of the Chinese production of opium. It is against the trade of the British Colonies in opium that the League launches its thunder bolts. "The blackest spots are under British rule," they have told the people of England. If that be so, it will be readily acknowledged by all acquainted with the Colonies or Settlements under British rule in the East that there are infinitely worse evils at Home calling for treatment than the practice of opium smoking among the Chinese. If the people of England did but know that the opium smokers in China do not amount to two per cent of the population they would realise the hypocrisy of the whole agitation, and perceive that there is infinitely more call for special prayers for the eradication of the drink evil in England than the opium evil in China. Charity should begin at home; but it seldom does. The annual drink bill in England with its population of forty-two millions exceeds £160,000,000 sterling; the import of foreign opium into China barely exceeds £3,500,000, and, assuming the native grown opium is three times the amount of the foreign import we get a total supply of opium valued at £14,000,000, for distribution among a population of four hundred millions. These figures are open to correction so far as concerns the estimate of the native-grown opium, but they serve roughly to show the relative prevalence of the drink evil in the United Kingdom and the opium evil in China. Had such figures as these been before the leaders in the religious life of England when the appeal for special prayer was suggested they would have doubtless recognised the application of the Scriptural advice to the hypocrite to first cast out the beam in his own eye so that he might the more clearly see to cast out the mote in his brother's eye. We cannot doubt, however, that the Bishop of London and the other religious leaders who have made the appeal are persuaded that opium smoking is a much more gigan-

tic evil than it really is. The Commission which begins its inquiry in Shanghai to-day may be able to furnish to the world more reliable data on the subject than has heretofore been available, and that we conceive to be the chief value of the Conference, for China has already been amply assured of the sympathy and co-operation of the Powers in the honest efforts she may make to wean her people of a habit which is admittedly vicious. The Government of China has proved its earnestness in the matter, but whether it is able to effectually secure complete obedience to its decrees throughout the Empire is still open to doubt.

## BUDGET SPECULATIONS IN ENGLAND.

(*Daily Press*, February 2nd.)

It has recently been estimated by one of the London newspapers that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he frames the Estimates for next year, will find himself obliged to suggest fresh taxation calculated to bring in the large sum of twenty-five million pounds sterling, due partly to the additional expenditure which the legislative achievements of the present Government have entailed, partly to the decline in the national revenue, and including an additional expenditure of about six million pounds per annum for some years to come on the Navy if the Government mean to fulfil their promise to maintain the Two-Power Standard. It was not many months ago that the Premier was publicly ridiculing a prophecy which appeared in the *Spectator*, that an additional income of sixteen millions would have to be provided in the next Budget. Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, however, knew full well how ill-founded was the optimism displayed by his leader in that speech, for it was not long afterwards that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was cheerily telling the country that he was already looking out for "hen-roosts" to rob. As the end of the financial year approaches there is naturally much speculation as to what "hen-roosts" are to be robbed. For the statement that the Budget will be "a startling one" we have the word of the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself, and he has further declared that it will not "interfere with any productive industry in the country." Not directly perhaps, though it is matter for argument whether any taxation which the Chancellor of the Exchequer can devise will not react upon the productive industries of the country. But new taxes of some kind cannot be avoided. Does the limitation we have mentioned portend taxation of foreign imports? Perish the thought! Is not Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE a staunch upholder of Free Trade? Did he not in that very speech dilate upon the glories of Free Trade in a manner quite poetical? Yet Lord CROMER said quite recently in the House of Lords that the country had positive knowledge that in a few months the £3,500,000 which the Government threw away in relief of the sugar duties will be re-imposed, "perhaps in a more objectionable form." The tea men are not a little apprehensive lest the Chancellor, in spite of his glorification of free imports, may look for "hen-roosts" in Mincing Lane, but until the plans of the Chancellor are definitely known, there will linger the hope that so far from adding to the burden on tea, the Government, bound by its Free Trade traditions, will publicly lament the necessity of having to tax tea at all. In all probability the Government will further squeeze the income tax-payers and increase the death duties. Some time

ago it was reported that Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE had been greatly interested in studying Japan's method of levying an income tax, but we doubt whether the adoption of the Japanese system will form the feature of the Budget which the Chancellor had in mind when he promised that it would be a startling one. There are many, however, in England who would like to see the principle of the income-tax extended to the income of the ordinary working man, and there are sound reasons to be adduced in favour of the suggestion. It is not the present income-tax payers who dictate the legislation of the country but the working classes who form the majority of the electors, and if they were made to bear in the direct form of an income tax the increasing cost of Government entailed by the tendency of the age towards socialistic legislation it would greatly increase the sense of responsibility in the elector. But what political party would venture to put forward such a proposal? Its defeat at the polls would be a foregone conclusion. Whatever new proposals may be made are certain to evoke a storm of opposition and the Chancellor of the Exchequer who spoke confidently some months back of the improbability of a dissolution for a few years has now come to see that "it is just possible that Parliament may not run its normal course." It is not merely just possible, but very probable that the present Parliament will not run its normal course.

## SIGNS OF TRADE REVIVAL.

(*Daily Press*, February 3rd.)

The hopes of an improvement in trade during the present year which were expressed a month ago when, with the passing of the old year and the dawn of the new, we reviewed the past and endeavoured to dimly forecast the future, grow more confident as the weeks pass. Confining our attention for the moment to China, we note that northern trade reports indicate a very satisfactory recovery. The purchasing capacity of the nation has been improved by bumper crops and the consequent reduction in the price of the staple food of the people. In the northern provinces the crops are described as "the best known for forty years" and we read that shipments are being made in bulk to Europe, where presumably better prices can be obtained than in Japan. These exceptionally heavy crops are certain to make a vast difference to trade generally. Stocks in the godowns of the importers were smaller at the end of 1908 than they have been for many years past. A comparative statement of stocks in foreign godowns and at the public wharves at Shanghai, on the 31st December compiled by the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce shows the vast difference at a glance, so far as that port is concerned, and the position at Shanghai is characteristic of the position at Hongkong and other importing centres. In cotton yarn the reduction is especially remarkable. A comparative table published in one of the recent reports issued by the well known Shanghai firm of NOEL, MURRAY & Co. Limited, show that at the end of 1904 the stocks at Shanghai amounted to roughly 260,000 piculs; at the end of 1905 there were over 400,000 piculs in the godowns; in 1906 nearly 700,000; in 1907, about 460,000, while at the end of 1908 the total stocks did not amount to more than 93,000. So that what with the greatly reduced stocks, in nearly every line of business at the end of the year, and the bumper crops that are reported from most of the provinces of China hopes of a sub-

stantial revival in trade seem to be well founded. The rapid recovery from the financial crisis in America is beneficially affecting trade throughout the world. One of the London newspapers has recently been conducting an investigation into the state of the markets in England and is able to write confidently of a revival in trade. "The end of the period of bad trade", it says, "has come, and the first signs of improvement are being experienced. In chemicals, cotton and wool—all sensitive indices to the state of trade—leading manufacturers and merchants have unhesitatingly proffered the opinion that there are indications of better times ahead." Among the statements published on the subject by our London contemporary is one by Mr. H. GORDON SELFRIDGE, of the well-known American firm of dry goods merchants, who are establishing a London branch of the business. Since their initial purchases, Mr. SELFRIDGE told the interviewer, the firm's agents had several times visited the chief markets, and they report that largely throughout England and equally throughout the principal centres of Europe prices are stiffening, and the result of this stiffening of prices he put in the form of a sequence of statements as follows:—"Stiffening of prices means increased demand. Increased demand means an increased volume of business. An increased volume of business means better times ahead." From the standpoint of a house which is able to feel the pulse of the times as quickly as it can be felt Mr. SELFRIDGE was emphatic in his statement that there are decidedly better times ahead. We hope that this will prove to be the case in China. The signs of revival are not so pronounced in South China as they appear to be in the North, but unquestionably the outlook generally is more hopeful and there is a growing confidence that the end of the prolonged period of trade depression is well in sight.

#### CORRUPTION AT PEKING.

(*Daily Press*, February 4th.)

The list of ministerial changes at Peking is by no means likely to end with the dismissal of YUAN SHI-KAI. None of the ministers appointed to high office by the late Empress Dowager have earned themselves a shadier reputation than CHEN PI, head of the Board of Posts and Communications; and there are not a few who will feel easier at learning that he is already the subject of a Board of Enquiry. CHEN PI is the officer whose particular object of dislike has been the Maritime Customs; and who, under the pretence of patriotism, has been seeking to undermine its utility and integrity. Another institution which has incurred his particular displeasure is the Imperial Post Office, and here, the institution being of comparatively recent growth, he conceived that the task of upsetting an undertaking only just beginning to be a source of profit to the Government would be a fairly easy task. He, too, it was who by the introduction of a man known to be utterly worthless, and who was known also to have paid heavily for the appointment, to the chief directorship of the Northern Railways, brought about the resignation of Mr. KINDER, who as Engineer-in-Chief had not only constructed, but had brought to be a valuable asset the Railways of North China. Unfortunately under the utterly corrupt administration that came into power during the later period of the late Empress CHU HI, CHEN PI, managed to get into his hands the Telegraph Administration, so that practically he held in his hands almost the most important of the administrative departments of the

Empire. While outwardly posing as a patriot, desirous of restoring to China the administration of all the departments of State, those better acquainted with the internal position of affairs knew him as a man utterly corrupt, even in the corrupt crowd that surrounded the late Regency; and recognised in his schemes to get rid of every capable foreigner in the Imperial Service simply an outward sign of the irrepressible greed which was the really actuating motive of all his assumed patriotism. Writing in last October, ere yet there was any symptom of the coming change in the Regency, Dr. MORRISON, the well-informed correspondent of the *Times*, did not hesitate to speak of him as the "Corrupt Minister CHEN PI." He, in fact, belonged to that utterly worthless class of ministers, whom the late DOWAGER, acting under the inspiration of her favourite eunuch, LI LIEN-YING, loved to have around her, and who acted as sponges to suck up the life-blood of the State, to be eventually squeezed out and slandered in the unmentionable debaucheries of the Court.

An anecdote, which, if not true, is *ben trovato*, is told of how CHEN PI himself became the means of exposing to the new REGENT the utterly unprincipled character of the man. In conversation with the REGENT he spoke of the necessity of having a new and suitable Palace erected for His Imperial Highness: "But how much will it cost?" said the REGENT. "A million taels," glibly replied the minister, who saw in the event a safe means of adding to his ill-gotten gains. "A million taels! and the Empire already groaning under its burdens; we must have something more modest." "Your Imperial Highness need have no fear, I have already provided the money," was the reply. The REGENT pricked his ears; whence came the million taels? The result was that CHEN PI's audience was closed, and a commission of enquiry instituted to examine into the methods of the Office. Any way, it is officially announced that CHEN PI, having been denounced for peculation in his office, as well as for receiving bribes, the Grand Secretary SUN KIANAT, and the Grand Councillor NA TUNG have been appointed a Commission to ascertain the facts of the case, and enquire into the working of the Department. Of course, Commissions of Enquiry have before this been accessible to such methods as have been familiar to CHEN PI, and CHEN has been endeavouring, till the affair has become a public scandal even in Peking, to make friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; but CHEN's own indiscretions have brought the REGENT himself into his "sphere of influence" and rendered practically impossible his whitewashing. Not unnaturally there is much fluttering about the dovecots of the Capital, and the curtains of the Palace of Iniquity are already trembling. But it is not to be expected that the powers of darkness will willingly submit to the new regime:

Is this the region, this the seat  
That we must change for heaven? This  
mournful gleam  
For that celestial light? Be it so, since he  
Who now is sovereign can dispose and bid  
What shall be right, furthest from him is best.  
But, as the poet says: "Better to reign in  
hell than serve in heaven." All the powers  
of the reactionaries, and they are still not  
few, are being summoned to make one last  
stand before the old edifice goes down. By  
an observant witness the present state of  
Peking is described as that of the earth  
when for a time the devil had been cast out,  
and had come down, 'having great wrath,  
because he knoweth that he hath but a little  
time. The whole city has, according to this

statement, been turned into one den of corruption, wherein each and every is seeking to make best use of his remaining term to turn into his own net what yet remains to be gathered of the harvest. At the moment, in fact, the issues of good and evil for China are already in the assaying crucible, and much depends upon the result whether China is to be restored to her pristine influence, or whether, like other decayed Powers, she is to sink for ever into oblivion. In his present course, there is little doubt, the REGENT has found himself materially strengthened by the influence for good of the present EMPRESS DOWAGER, who in all his troubles seems to have loyally stood by her late husband. Although no relation, except through the accident of her marriage to the late EMPEROR, of his successor and adopted son on the uneasy throne of China, the EMPRESS DOWAGER has been called through that accident to take the place of mother to the infant who now occupies that Throne. But though she has never permitted herself to be tempted into the stormy path of politics, she seems all through to have acted the part of consoling angel to her bitterly wronged husband, and to have been a silent, but by no means unsympathetic sharer of his views. With a like abdication of self, she has willingly accepted the onerous task of guardian forced upon her by her duty to her late lord; but has declared her intention of keeping herself entirely aloof from politics as such. At the same time she has not failed to urge upon her brother-in-law his duty as younger brother, towards her late husband's memory nor to point out to him that his own safety, equally with the good of the Empire, demands that he should not hesitate in the course he has adopted. From all this it will readily be seen that the task of the new REGENT is one beset with difficulties and dangers, and will require all the energies of his life to be devoted to the task of clearing, out the stall of corruption bequeathed to him by the late Regency. That there are amongst the rising generation of officials many with whom the interests of the Empire weigh heavy, and who are prepared to sacrifice themselves in the effort to restore the lost prestige of China, is an undeniable fact; but it is also a fact that the best have been deliberately crushed out during the recent reign of terror; and that not the least trying task innumerable on the REGENT will be that of discovering them and bringing them to the front. But it is also a fact that of those brought near him at present, many, if not the majority, are such as CHEN PI, and will require weeding out with a firm yet impartial hand. This will probably prove the hardest task of all. A century of corrupt and feeble government, such as China has had to pass through, cannot but have sunk deep into the foundation of society; and it will require the strongest of wills and the ablest of councils to place China on a basis, whence unencumbered she may be able to work out her own salvation.

Writing to the Shanghai papers Mr. R. Farone, Acting Consul-General for Italy at that port, says:—H. E. Tuan Fang notified me, some days ago, how deeply he sympathized with the Italian people in the immense disaster which occurred in Sicily and Calabria and wishing to contribute towards the relief of the sufferers he had started a subscription amongst his colleagues, Viceroys and Governors of the various provinces of China. The result of this is that Tls. 42,000 and \$30,000 were subscribed; of this \$10,000 have already been handed over to the Italian Consul-General in Hongkong and the balance will duly be paid here to me.

## THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IN ASIA.

(*Daily Press*, February 5th.)

It is somewhat noticeable that the understanding which was recently come to between the United States and Japan as to their policy with regard to China, is looked upon as something new and as introducing an element which did not before exist in the relations between the United States and the Far East. In truth what is set forth in the diplomatic notes which have been exchanged is merely an extension of the policy which has always been adopted by the United States in regard both to Japan and China—but more especially in respect to the latter—the policy, namely of exerting her influence at all times towards the preservation of the integrity of both countries. With respect to Japan, the question never assumed any definite form except with regard to Russia, as no other foreign nation had conceived the idea of trying issues with that country; but with reference to China the idea for many years past was widely spread that some European nation—most probably Great Britain—would be compelled to, or, at least, justified by circumstances, in annexing some portion of the apparently effete Chinese Empire. Against any such policy, which was hinted at as far back as soon after the Treaty of Tientsin, whose provisions the Chinese undoubtedly endeavoured to evade, the United States steadily set her face—and it is not surprising, viewing the state of public feeling among the Europeans in China, that this policy on the part of America, was looked upon with disfavour. It was, however, manifestly the only one which the United States could adopt; as, until recent years, the recognised policy of that country was absolutely to avoid foreign conquest and to confine herself strictly to the development of her own vast internal resources. It was not unnatural that those who were in favour of more high-handed dealing with China, attributed the position taken by the United States merely to her special position—that is, that, not being able to make foreign conquests abroad, she wished to prevent other nations doing so to her possible detriment. Events, however, have shown that this was not the only motive which dictated her policy—which was that which was followed by the British Ministers at Peking who were supposed to have been influenced to a great extent by the attitude of America. For this supposition, however, there does not appear to be much foundation, and there is good reason to believe that the representatives of Great Britain recognised at an early period the desirability, if possible, of avoiding the responsibility of anything in the form of annexation in China. At all events England and America were quite at one on the subject, though the Chinese authorities always gave more credit to the latter for this non-interfering policy, being aware that the United States could not adopt any other line. Later a different attitude was assumed toward China, and there was much talk of spheres of different foreign nations and hints at possible annexations and a partition of the Empire. The Japanese war, however, effectively put an end to ideas of this kind, by giving an object lesson such as could not be overlooked as to what the responsibilities were likely to be, which would devolve upon any nation who adopted anything like a high-handed policy in the Far East. Thus the old policy of maintaining the integrity of China was reverted to, and it is that policy which is enunciated in the diplomatic note which has been exchanged between the United States and Japan.

The importance of this understanding seems to have been somewhat overestimated. As was at once pointed out, no treaty has been concluded. This could only be done with the assent of the Senate, which might hesitate to give it on account of the immigration troubles in California. On other grounds also, the United States would hesitate to bind herself absolutely by a treaty on such a point with Japan. But, as a deliberate declaration of future policy, so far as it is possible to maintain it, on the part of both nations, the diplomatic notes are of scarcely less importance than an actual formal treaty. So far as the United States is concerned, as already noticed, they indicate nothing new, but with respect to Japan, they have a different bearing. They have the effect of a formal declaration by that nation that she is willing to follow foreign nations in their present policy with regard to China, that namely of preserving the integrity of the Empire, and equal trading rights to all nations. This policy on the part of Japan will probably be the best in the long run for her, and it will certainly be that which for some time to come will tend most to preserve the peace in the Far East, which, there might be some reason to apprehend, might be disturbed by a disagreement between China and Japan, of which there have been threatenings from time to time. China will do well to fall in with so reasonable a line of policy as that which has been agreed to on her behalf, by two nations who are likely to have the greatest "say" in the matter. Indeed the declaration between the United States and Japan, follows closely the terms of the agreement made between Great Britain and Japan in 1905, so far as the integrity of China is concerned. It is, of course, to be noticed that there is a reservation which prevents this "understanding" from being taken by China as an absolute guarantee to maintain her independence. This might, and probably would, be a temptation to China to presume upon so comfortable a position. The "understanding" sets forth that both nations are determined to preserve the common interests of all Powers in China by supporting by all pacific means at their disposal the independence and integrity of China, but it also provides that if anything should occur to threaten this *status quo* the two Governments will "communicate with each other in order to arrive at an understanding as to what measures they may consider it useful to take." On the whole the agreement is set forth in as definite a manner as can be expected and has the advantage of not being of so binding a character as an actual Treaty, which might lead to difficulties, if the circumstances at a given future time became markedly different from those under which it was made.

At last month's meeting of the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute, Commander John G. Heugh, R.N., D.S.O., of Peking, was elected a Fellow of the Institute.

The Saigon *Opinion* says that Chinese brigands captured in Upper Tonkin, continue to be forwarded to Singapore by the Government of Indo-China. Every mail steamer arriving there from that province brings numbers of these evil-doers for despatch to Singapore, and it seems that the inflow is likely to continue for a good while. Flying columns in Upper Tonkin are hunting down the brigands and capturing many of them each day. The *Straits Times*, however, says it is officially informed that the Straits Government has consented to receive 700 of these men, who are not really brigands, but may be correctly described as refugees. They are arriving in batches by every ship and are considered to be a superior class of Chinese.

## RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

The world must be coming to an end. A day or two ago I read that a Chinaman left his employment because he had not enough work to do. No use for a man of that disposition attempting to hold several of the offices I know in Hongkong. No, I shan't mention names.

"The hand that makes the biscuit rules the world," exclaimed a speaker at a conference in San Jose on household economics. What's wrong with the cradle? Has it been relegated to oblivion? The re-writing of the old axiom may make us fear for the future of the race. It suggests race suicide.

Stands Scotland where she did? Hongkong Scots allowed the 25th to pass without anything being done to commemorate the "immemorial memory" of the National Bard. A most unaccountable omission. Where are all our lovers of Burns? Surely the poet is not without admirers even in Hongkong. There are many I know who have been fired by his patriotism, by his burning love of country. There are many who have been melted by his tenderness. And there are many who have been inspired by his love songs. Yet not one raised a voice on the one great night in the year when so many are sounding his praises. Puir auld Scotland! Oh, that she has lived to see such a day! Woe is me.

After reading the *Daily Press* telegram, about the daring robbery in London, I feel quite sorry for the shade of "Dick Turpin" if it happened to be floating around Tottenham some days ago, and I can imagine how its shadowy breast must have heaved with envy. Of course, we cannot always hold records and like true gentlemen of the road, if we are beaten there's nothing to do but admit it. All the same its jolly hard luck to be outdone in one's profession. It's not so bad if patent chemical sprays, silent pistols and other advanced weapons are used, so long as the good old horse figures in the scene; but to dash about in motor cars and race along in trams—it's really not playing the game! And the tragic end which befell the perpetrators told too plainly that with the advance of civilization and its new-fangled inventions dies the romance of life.

The frequent burglaries seem to suggest that perhaps we do not treat our midnight callers in the right way in Hongkong, but the eccentric yet entirely original method adopted by a beautiful lady figuring in a story in the Xmas number of *Sketch* is hardly likely to become popular here; for I am sure it would be hard to find any one willing to place cigars and whisky at the disposal of Mr. Bill Sykes, to sustain him during his arduous task of rifling the strong room. Personally, I do not advocate the idea, but it may really be found to be the most economical in the long run, for when the spirit courses the veins the feeling of good fellowship and peace and goodwill to men will surely follow so long as the supply is restricted, and all thoughts of disturbing your rest or your treasures will become abhorrent and the silent visitor will depart at peace with all the world.

Jurors will feel interested in learning that a judge in Seattle excused a number of men from serving on a jury because they had read an account of the crime upon which they would have been called to find a verdict had they been selected as jurors. It suggests an easy way of shirking a tedious duty, but the disqualification does not tend to raise the standard of intelligence among jurymen. What intelligent men will forego the privilege of keeping themselves informed concerning what is going in the world?

Pardon me, fair readers, if I seem ungallant. I do not wish to reflect upon you, although it is my duty to indulge in reflections, but I could not resist several questions which suggested themselves to me when I read that the Emperor of Korea the other day received in audience some Korean women who had "distinguished themselves by their devotion to their husbands." Naturally I wanted to know if the ladies of the

Hermit Kingdom were becoming so Westernised in their ideas that they did not worry about their poor husbands? And I would also like to have been informed if this royal recognition of an old-fashioned virtue awakened the women of that country to a sense of their responsibilities to their spouses? I have not had the questions answered, but it occurred to me we might improve on the methods of the Kofean Emperor. For instance the Governor might inaugurate a scheme of recognition of wifely merits. Those who flirted with other men and neglected their husbands might be merely admitted to receptions at Government House; those who, while flirting, attended to the care of the household, might receive a shake of the gubernatorial hand, and those dear domestic creatures who were so unmodern as to retain their affection for their husbands and who loved their own homes might be rewarded with invitations to Government House Ball. What's that? It would cause an upheaval of the social fabric in Hongkong? Well, perhaps!

Just by way of illustrating some women's conception of their duties to their husbands, I will quote from the Korean newspaper's account of the reception:—"One of these women, the story goes, prolonged her dying husband's life some days by giving him a cupful of her own blood obtained by cutting her fingers. Another, we are told, cured her husband of leprosy by giving him a bit of flesh taken from her own thigh." There are not many ladies prepared to sacrifice themselves in this way, but should I go far wrong in conceding that there are one or two Hongkong wives who do not mind giving their husbands a bit of their tongue?

Yes, it must have been a surprise! This reflection follows reading of this story of a missionary in China who was sufficiently vigorous to outlast three wives. He married a fourth who was about forty years his junior. Unfortunately both husband and wife were carried off together by cholera. A certain missionary journal, forgetful of the three first wives and of a certain question raised in Holy Writ, concluded its obituary notice thus:—"What a happy surprise to each it must have been, on entering their heavenly abode, to meet the other there."

How lightly the Chinese regard the loathsome disease of small pox is known probably to most readers. They smile at our alarm. I was talking a day or two ago to the Editor of a Chinese newspaper about the report that the infant Emperor of China was suffering from confluent small pox. "That is nothing," said he; "it is the natural inheritance of a Manchu. A Chinese is no more alarmed about that than a foreigner would be if his child had an attack of the measles."

What capacities for leisure or holiday have our Hongkongites! China New Year, with its enforced holiday for most of us, is scarcely over, when we see a boatload of fellow colonials leaving our shores for Manila, which is holding high revelry next week! Makes one wonder when the work is done.

#### "THE QUEEN OF THE CARNIVAL."

HONGKONG:

O, where is the Queen of Manila?  
And how fares her Kingdom and State?  
And does her most august person  
Intend to appear at the fete?  
But perhaps there isn't a monarch  
Reigning o'er those isles, cross the sea  
Or may be she's vanquished and vanished.  
And deposed—as despots should be!

MANILA:

Her rule has been short and too costly.  
Lord! how she piled up the debt!  
And not being up in the business  
We guessed it was time she should get.  
So one night when all was peaceful  
And the city was locked in rest  
We hustled her to the "Luneta"  
And soon finished our thirtiess guest!

HONGKONG:

Well! why did you dabble in Kingdoms?  
Just keep to a Council on Board  
And leave such extravagant playthings—  
Don't touch what you cannot afford!

MANILA:  
O city overflowing with wisdom  
We'll follow your treasured advice  
But we kinder hankered for titles—  
And the sound of Queen seemed so nice!

RODERICK RANDOM.

#### HONGKONG.

The appointment of Mr. A. Shelton Hooper and Dr. G. H. L. Fitzwilliams as members of the Sanitary Board is gazetted.

At the Magistracy on Feb. 2 Mr. J. R. Wood convicted about thirty chair coolies for plying for hire without licences. In each case a fine of \$1 was imposed.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to recognise Mr. G. E. Liebert, Consul for France, as being in charge of the Spanish Consulate in Hongkong until further notice.

There is a blank on the plague return for the week ending January 30th. Other cases of communicable disease reported are one of enteric fever and one of smallpox.

We are pleased to learn that Mr. E. R. Halifax, the Police Magistrate at Taipo, has nearly recovered from the effects of his recent shooting accident, and he was able to resume duty on Feb. 1st.

The Earl and Countess of Meath were booked to leave Genoa for Japan by the *Prinzess Alice*, which is due here next week. Lady V. Brabazon, a daughter of the Earl and Countess, had booked by the same steamer from Southampton.

In Telegraph Bay on Feb. 1st, as the steam passenger launch *Lum On* was coming to Hongkong from Aberdeen, a Chinese passenger fell over the side and was drowned. The launch put back immediately, but the body was not recovered.

Owing to a change in the plans of Mr. J. H. Scott, President of the China Association, it has been found that time does not admit of arrangements being made for holding a members' dinner at Shanghai in his honour. The Committee invited Mr. Scott to dine with it last Saturday.

His many friends in Hongkong and Canton will regret to learn of the death of Mr. T. S. Reilly, chief engineer of the Yeut Hain Railway, Canton. Deceased, who was only 30 years of age, passed away at the Government Civil Hospital on Saturday, and was buried at Happy Valley on the 31st ult.

Constable W. Tyrrell of the Naval Yard Police has been posted as missing, and it is feared that he has fallen into the harbour and been drowned. He was last seen on duty at about a quarter to twelve on January 31st, and, although inquiries and a search have since been made, they have revealed no trace of the missing man.

A native who was banished on January 13th appeared before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy yesterday on a charge of stealing a quantity of clothing from No. 23, Macdonnell Road, Kowloon. He was found guilty and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, a further period of twelve months being added on the charge of returning from banishment.

Arthur Dyer Ball of Oxford (son of Mr. J. Dyer Ball, who has just retired from the Civil Service of Hongkong) has been selected to represent West against South England in one of the international Hockey matches. It is not likely that he will get his place this year, but if he continues to play as well as he has done for Oxford and gets his Blue he will probably get international honours yet.

Mr. N. G. Nolan took over his duties as chief interpreter of the Supreme Court on Feb. 1st, his place at the Magistracy being filled by Mr. Wong Kwong Tin, who has recently been engaged at the Supreme Court, and was formerly employed at the Registrar-General's office. Mr. Li Hong Mi, who recently retired from the Government Service, has joined the firm of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell as interpreter.

While a family of well-to-do Chinese who reside in Elgin Street, were at the circus on Wednesday night a friend is alleged to have called at their house, broken open a safe, and departed with jewellery and money to the value of \$11,000. The police are investigating.

A solemn Requiem service was held on the 30th ult. at the St. Joseph's Church, Hongkong, for the repose of the souls of all the Bishops and missionaries of South China. The officiating clergy was the Very Rev. Fr. De Maria, Pro-Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong. Their Lordships Bishop Mazot, Clemente, Merel and Pozzoni were present in their pontifical robes and the Rev. Fr. Herault, representing His Lordship Bishop Lavaque, of Kwangsi, as well as all the clergy of the various denominations. The service was conducted throughout in Gregorian style. The last absolution for the dead were imparted by all the Bishops and the service was a very impressive one.

A very enjoyable social was held at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms on the 31st ult., the Hon. Mr. F. H. May presiding over a large attendance. Songs sung by Miss Stewart, Mrs. Badeley, Mr. Beavis and the Rev. J. Beattie, R.N., were well received, while Mr. Cochrane's humorous recitations stamped that gentleman as an entertainer of no mean order. The droll Irish yarns told by the Hon. Mr. F. H. May are always an attractive item, and the hon. gentleman kept his hearers in roars of laughter as he recounted various examples of the Irish "bull". The excellent programme was arranged by Mrs. May, and that lady also acted as accompanist. The concert ended with a vote of thanks to all who had assisted in making the evening such a pleasant one.

#### AN ARMED ROBBERY CHARGE.

Five natives were charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Feb. 4th with committing armed robbery at Cheungshawan on the 25th ult.

Mr. King, Deputy-Superintendent of Police, conducted the prosecution. He told the Court that at one a.m. on the morning of the 25th January a large body of robbers, amongst whom the five defendants were alleged to have been, armed with revolvers, knives and choppers and carrying torches, broke into three houses at Cheungshawan. One robber struck one of the complainants over the head with a revolver, while the others intimidated the inmates by various threats, after which they proceeded to ransack the houses. While so engaged, one of the inmates escaped unobserved, hastened to the Police Station and reported the matter. When the police arrived the robbers had disappeared, leaving no trace behind. Two days later the police arrested a man who went to pawn a gold ring in a pawnbroker's at Yaumati. On the evening of the same day a party of police under Inspector Dymond arrested the defendants just as they were entering a house at Kowloon-tsui. In this house the wife of the first defendant, who was to be charged with being in possession of stolen property, was found. The police also found three revolvers, nine knives as well as a quantity of jewellery and clothing which had since been identified by the complainants. The man who took the ring to the pawnshop was one of the robbers. He had been charged, and had elected to turn King's evidence.

Witnesses were called, and the hearing adjourned.

There was a large audience at the Theatre on Tuesday night to hear the famous violinist Herr Leopold Premyslav, who with the kind assistance of Mrs. J. Cochrane at the piano gave a concert which will long endure as a pleasant memory in the minds of all who were present.

Among the victims of the recent political earthquake in Peking, the *China Times* says, is Major Menzies. This officer used to be well known in Tientsin. He followed H. E. Yuan Shih Kai to Peking. Now the late President of the Waiwupu has left the capital. Major Menzies finds his occupation similar to that of Othello. It is now reported that he is going back once more to England—this time for good. Evidently he thinks the Manchu party are going to be in power for some considerable time.

## SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Feb. 2nd at the Board Room. Mr. R. O. Hutcheson presided, and there were present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, M.G. (Vice President) Colonel Bedford, Hon. Mr. Irving, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. G. H. L. Fitzwilliams, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Dr. Pearce (Medical Officer of Health) Dr. McFarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health) and Mr. A. Gibson (Secretary.)

## A WORD OF WELCOME.

The PRESIDENT—Gentlemen, before going on with the business to-day, I should like to welcome our newly elected members. The election this year has been more important than usual, and I think they ought both to be congratulated on their most successful poll. Mr. Shelton Hooper we have seen before, and I hope he will continue to be with us for a long time to come. Dr. Fitzwilliam is a new member, and I hope his stay with us will be long, and both a pleasure to himself and a benefit to the Colony (applause.)

## EXHUMATION OF CORPSES IN CHINESE CEMETERIES.

Mr. HOOPER, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions:

(1.) Is it a fact that permission of any officer of the Sanitary Department or other Government Department has been granted for the exhumation of any corpse in any Chinese Cemetery and for its re-interment in the Colonial Cemetery, Happy Valley, commonly known as the Protestant Cemetery, since the passing of the Public Health and Buildings Amendment Ordinance 1901?

(2.) If so, what is the number of such cases, and dates of each?

(3.) Who was the officer who granted the permits and by what authority did he do so?

(4.) Has any portion of the Colonial Cemetery been reserved for such re-interments referred to in question No. 1?

The PRESIDENT's replies were:

1. Yes.

2. One. The permit was issued in December 1908.

3. The form of permit was issued by the Registrar-General, the Medical Officer of Health having no sanitary objections. The issuing of this permit was a continuation of the practice that obtained under the old byelaws. Printed copies of the new byelaws were not circulated until December 30th.

4. No.

Mr. HOOPER said he wished to call attention to this question, and moved the suspension of the standing orders.

The Vice-President seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. HOOPER said his reason for calling attention to this matter was clearly indicated in the four questions he had put. He thought members could see what he was driving at, and that was to find out if any bodies which had been legally buried in any other authorised cemeteries had been exhumed and re-interred in the Colonial Cemetery, commonly known as the Protestant cemetery, was intended, and had been used for the interment of the European community here of all classes and denominations. It had been divided up into sections to enable the military and the naval men to be buried in their respective sections which had been reserved for them, as other sections were reserved for residents of different periods of living in this Colony. The Hon. Director of Public Works would bear him out, he was sure, when he said that the area was becoming so restricted that that official had had the greatest difficulty, and Government had been put to very great expense, in extending this cemetery in other directions to enable them to bury people for whom it was intended. After the case which was admitted to have taken place, he thought they should endeavour to prohibit any in future. The thing was to find out how this had happened. Personally he did not think such a thing possible, for under the byelaws passed at a Board meeting, after having been considered by a committee composed of the President, the Vice-President and the speaker, and which had since been approved by the Legislative Council, power to grant permits in such cases was reserved for the Board, and was taken away from the Medical Officer of Health or any other officer

the Board nominated. The date of this permit was given as December 19th, and as an apology for the error it was stated that the byelaws were not circulated until December 30th. Mr. Hooper failed to understand what that meant. Circulated to whom? He ventured to say that every member of the public community of Hongkong was notified in the Government Gazette (which he produced) of December 4th. And it was the duty of every public officer to make himself cognizant with the contents of that paper. What was more astounding still was that the Registrar-General, from whose department this permit came was himself present at the Council meeting at which the matter was brought up, and was a party to the confirming of the byelaws. But this, perhaps, was a little slip. He said this not so much with the idea of finding fault as with the object of preventing it happening in future. On looking into the law we could not find that anyone in this Colony has authorised to grant a certificate for exhumation, and the speaker appealed to the Registrar-General to enlighten him if he imagined he had that power. Under the Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance of 1896 he found there was power given to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board or the Registrar-General to permit the removal of dead bodies from the Colony. That was all he could find on the subject. Mr. Hooper asked the Registrar-General to enlighten the Board, all the members of which appeared to be in ignorance. He concluded by moving "that the Government be asked to obtain for the information of this Board the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown as to who has power to grant permission for the exhumation of any corpse which had been interred in any authorised cemetery of this Colony."

After a period of silence

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded the motion *pro forma*.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Mr. Chairman, if I am in order in making a personal explanation—

Mr. HOOPER—I should like one, but it should have come before the resolution was carried.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I am simply in a sense supplementing the answer to the third of these questions—that answer was that the person who granted a permit was the Registrar-General. That is not absolutely correct, because the document issued by the Registrar-General is a document addressed to the Medical Officer of Health, I think, or to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Not in this case.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—It is a document simply informing an officer of the Sanitary Board—I am not sure whether the Medical Officer or Secretary—that a certain person desires to exhume a body. It is in no sense an order.

Mr. HOOPER—I didn't say an order, a permit.

The PRESIDENT—It was under the old byelaws that the Medical Officer of Health signed these permits if there was no objection. There was a standing rule that no such signature was necessary if a death was over seven years old.

Mr. HOOPER referred the President to the old byelaw which said that no grave should be reopened, if a corpse was interred therein, without the written permission of the Medical Officer of Health or other officer duly appointed by the Board for that purpose. There was not one word about the Registrar General. He had no *locus standi*.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—The sole function of the Registrar-General, under the old byelaw, was to refer the matter to the Medical Officer of Health. A letter of introduction given to a person who wanted to open a grave is not to be called a permit.

Mr. HOOPER—Is it a printed form?

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Yes.

Mr. HOOPER—Then I think it would be just as well if the Registrar-General would let us have that form to forward to the Law Officers.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL promised to do so, and the PRESIDENT stopped the discussion.

## THE NEW MEMBERS.

The Colonial Secretary wrote, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, informing the

Board of the election of Mr. A. Shelton Hooper and Dr. G. H. L. Fitzwilliams as members of their body.

## RAT RETURN.

The rat return for the week ending January 16th showed that 1672 rats were caught in the Colony, four of which were found to be infected. For the week ending January 23rd 923 rats were caught, none of which were infected with plague.

## MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics gave the following figures: Based on a death rate per 1000 per annum the percentage of death in the whole Colony for the week ended 2nd January was 19.4, and for the week ended 9th January it was 19.9 as against 24.6 for the corresponding week of last year.

## LIMEWASHING RETURNS.

For the fortnight ended 12th January 1929 houses were limewashed in the Eastern and 1070 in the Central District.

## THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HONGKONG BRANCH.

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association was held at the City Hall yesterday afternoon. Mr. Murray Stewart presided, and there were also present Mr. C. H. Ross, Mr. H. E. Tomkins, Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, Mr. W. G. Humphreys, Mr. H. R. B. Hancock, Mr. E. G. Barrett (committee), Mr. A. S. D. Cousland (secretary), the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Mr. J. M. R. Smith, and Mr. J. Armstrong, Mr. J. C. Peter, Mr. E. F. Mackay, Mr. Shellim, Mr. C. S. Gubbay, Mr. A. Forbes, Mr. W. S. Bailey, Mr. D. Macdonald, Mr. G. Morton Smith, Mr. J. D. Auld, Mr. D. K. Moss, and Mr. J. Cochrane.

The CHAIRMEN said:—The notice calling this meeting and the annual report having been in your hands for some days I presume that the formality of reading them may be dispensed with, and accordingly I propose to proceed at once with our first business,—the consideration of the report. In moving its adoption, I should perhaps explain its form. Its form differs from that of most of those which have preceded it. Most of these have contained an appendix in which has appeared much of the year's correspondence. This time no letters have been printed in full. The reason for that is twofold. For one thing the proportion of correspondence requiring to be treated as confidential was last year larger than usual. This is not in any degree due to a desire on the part of your committee to shroud their doings in mystery. Confidential treatment of correspondence has in all cases been imposed upon us; we merely keep faith in thus dealing with it. I mention this because I have seen it suggested that your Committee is unduly enamoured of secretive methods. The notion is a mistaken one. Our correspondence is at all times open to the inspection of members, but all of it is not necessarily therefore suitable for publication.

As regards correspondence not requiring to be treated confidentially, the reason why it does not appear is simply that it seemed on reperusal to be insufficiently interesting for reproduction in detail. As I am mainly responsible for this I feel free to state the fact. By way of doing penance I volunteered to wade through these two formidable bundles of stale stuff which you see on the table, picking out the least uninteresting passages, and stringing them together in a brief relation of the year's work, thus enabling you rapidly to scan it, and to see at a glance what we have been doing. My object was to save your patience. Some of the patience thus saved will, I hope, be available for supplementary reference to the topics touched upon.

The first is for the moment threadbare. We sympathise with the desire of the British community of Tientsin to maintain a British Post Office. With them we rest in hope. There is nothing else to be done in the meantime. The same remark applies to the lottery ticket question, while the adage "least said soonest mended" precisely meets the present case of the boycott. Concerning the problem of the protection of Trade Marks its vital importance to the pro-

pects of British commerce in the Far East need not be enlarged upon. Diplomatic conventions can do something towards solving it; but its complete solution depends more upon the advent of a world-wide spirit of fair play. For that we have still to pray.

Railway matters call for more detailed comment. The day when it will be possible to take a ticket from Kowloon to Calais seems still provokingly remote. Of giant strides towards the realisation of this dream I wish we could hear more. As a beginning I wish we could even see good reason to believe that it will soon be possible to take a ticket from Kowloon to Canton. I wish there were good grounds for hoping that the Chinese section of the line thither will be completed as soon as the British section. I wish we could ascertain that the acquisition of the requisite land was being pushed forward vigorously. Unfortunately we know that it is not. For some reason there is delay. Money for the purpose has been handed over in various instalments to the official responsible, but still the business hangs fire. The difficulties of acquiring land for the Yueh Han Railway have been overcome with comparative ease. What is it that makes the difficulties on the Chinese section of the Kowloon line so much more formidable? No wonder if in this Colony we ask the question with some impatience.

As regards the reference in the report to the work of construction on the Kwangtung section of the Canton-Hankow railway a word of explanation is necessary. The rapid progress recently made was noted with satisfaction. The particulars are public property. Forty-four miles of track are open to traffic. Two trains run daily over the whole distance. Each way the journey takes three hours. This does not exactly indicate the top speed of the train. In the 44 miles are 12 stoppages. Additional trains run regularly to a halfway station some 20 odd miles out from Canton. Already the stimulating effect is apparent. It is not only that villagers throng the train. That fact is patent to any casual observer. A fact not so readily realised is that there is also the beginning of a local freight traffic—cattle and vegetables coming into Canton from the country; fish going out to inland villages. As a local line the success of the undertaking is already assured. Precisely because of that there is danger. There is danger lest the management should see no further than that. The directors are drawn chiefly from the local gentry and merchants. It is probable that few of them have travelled widely. It may be that some of them have never travelled at all. It is therefore open to doubt whether they realise to the full the possibilities opening out of the little station yard at Wongsha. Failure to realise those possibilities now will result in curtailing them hereafter. If the railway is ever to be operated as part of a great trunk line and a large local traffic is to run simultaneously, a double track in the immediate vicinity of Canton will become a necessity, and there will be pressing need for more room at the terminus. It will be well for the future of the enterprise if these things are realised and acted upon promptly. The price of both land and labour will rise as the influence of increased facilities of communication makes itself felt. The directors should look ahead. They have the history of the short-sightedness of any number of other pioneer directors, similarly situated in other countries, to guide them. The criticism thus elaborated is made in no carping spirit. It is made in a friendly spirit. It is not made because this Association has in former years committed itself to the opinion that the Chinese would be wise to entrust the building of the whole line from Hankow to Canton to a foreign contractor. We may hold to that opinion and yet, realising the uselessness of putting it forward at the present time, accept the position that the people of Kwangtung prefer to build their own railways and wish them success. But our interest in the progress of the line justifies criticism of the methods employed in its construction. When the Hongkong Government lent the money for its redemption the understanding was that the line was to be built; the project was not to be hung up or merely played with. For some time it looked as if the Chinese were merely playing with it. That was the impression which I

received some two years ago when I paid a visit to the rail head. I was still under that impression when at last year's annual meeting, after a year's absence in England and speaking with the greater freedom of an ordinary member, I made a remark which was held unduly to disparage the progress made,

I desire now to make what amends I can by giving equal publicity to an opinion recently expressed by an expert witness, a highly qualified railway engineer, that, judged on the lines which have been adopted by the management, progress may be regarded as not unsatisfactory. This does not disprove the contention that the Chinese, by themselves, cannot yet successfully undertake serious railway enterprise, because of course they are employing foreign engineers of various nationalities. The tunneling difficulties which lie in wait, somewhere about the seventieth mile, and the heavy bridge work entailed by the crossing of the North River, will test the efficiency of their staff methods in due time, but in the meantime the point I want to make is that, in expert opinion, the work done, as far as it goes—for the 45 miles of track at present laid—some ballasted, some not—some bridges permanent, others temporary—and for 35 miles of embankment reported as being nearly complete beyond—the work done does receive guarded commendation. But that is no reason why we should refrain from criticising, on general lines, the directors' policy, if we consider it susceptible of improvement. Hence the comment in the report.

Concerning the remaining subjects with which it deals I have little to add; not because there is little to say, but because there is so much. The subsidiary coin problem we have always with us and shall have as long as the solution indicated in the report is delayed. The solution involves the greater problem presented by the state of China's currency. If things at their worst are bound to mend the state of China's currency may be optimistically regarded. It is in a state of indescribable chaos. With the increasing popularity of the idea of issuing unsecured notes in unlimited quantities all the forces of confusion seem now to be at work. Scores of different sorts of taels, dozens of doubtful kinds of dollars, an infinite variety of subsidiary coins, brass cash, copper cash, cash on strings or by the cartload; dollar notes, notes representing sub-coin, myriads of notes representing cash pieces, native orders, chops, and heaven knows what else—all mixed up with the exchange problems that arise between every town and village throughout the Empire, combine to create a gigantic conundrum. Native press telegrams state that the new Tael coin which was to have made all these crookednesses straight has already reached melting point. It is melting into thin air—vanishing in the glistening vision of a gold standard. This resuscitated dream represents a great idea, to be worked towards gradually, the first step an undoubted Imperial dollar. But even that would leave untouched much of the general welter. So must we.

I do not propose to launch out on the subject of opium. To deal adequately with that would perhaps require a historical survey reaching back through misty centuries to the time when Chinese junks traded as far west as the Persian Gulf. I confine myself to raising a point which seems somehow to have received scant attention. It is this. How can the apologists of China reconcile her claim to be protected from the Indian export with the fact that China herself exports the drug? One would have thought that the first thing for China to have done would have been to desist from the practice she so loudly complains of in others. It may be said that the amount is small, but in a matter of conscience there can be no dimensions. If, as is said, it is iniquitous that the Indian Government should debauch the Chinese in China, is it not equally wrong of the Chinese Government to debauch its subjects in the Straits and in Indo-China, by conniving at the export thither of the home-grown article? May we not reasonably ask as a preliminary that China should practice what she preaches? But in all matters relating to opium the Conference holds the field. The China Association may as well hold its breath. No words will be listened to until the results of the Shanghai symposium are made known.

These are all the subjects upon which the report touches. A final word of explanation is needful concerning the many interesting subjects upon which it does not touch. The number of these is perhaps the most remarkable thing about it. There are no exciting excursions into high Chinese politics. At this distance from the capital we labour under great disadvantages in making them. Even in Peking there is apparently some difficulty in obtaining safe news. And there is manifestly far greater difficulty in forming views which are not liable to be upset. Again occurs the commonplace doubt, prevalent after the Boxer rising, as to whether any foreigner has ever yet succeeded in understanding the workings of the Chinese mind. To this doubt is mainly due the circumstance that the events which three months ago startled the world led to no "pronouncements" from here. The death of the late Emperor and of the Empress Dowager—the peaceful transference of the reins of power—the subsequent fall of Yuan and his exit from the Peking stage—all these dramatic incidents no word was said. If anything required to be said it was clearly the more difficult business of our colleagues in the North to say it. We have kept strictly to our own business down South. Our task has been light because with very few exceptions such incidents as have arisen to threaten good relations with the Canton authorities, have been successfully dealt with through the ordinary official channels and comment from us was thus rendered needless. How light our task has been is made manifest by the modest proportions of the report, the adoption of which, together with the accounts, I now formally move.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Mr. Chairman, I have very much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. From the report which is in our hands it is evident that you and your fellow members of the committee have during the past year, had some very delicate and difficult subjects to handle, and I think, Sir, that you and your committee deserve the thanks, not merely of members of this Association, but also of the community generally for the firm and tactful manner with which you have dealt with these questions (applause).

The motion was put and carried unanimously. It was proposed by Mr. Forbes and seconded by Mr. Shellim that the retiring Committee should be elected. This motion was also carried unanimously. This being all the business the meeting then adjourned.

#### ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, KOWLOON.

The annual meeting of seatholders and subscribers of the above Church convened in accordance with the Trust Deed was held in the Vestry on Thursday last at 5.30 p.m., Right Rev. Dr. Lander, the Bishop of Victoria, presiding.

The accounts for year 1908 as presented by Rev. A. J. Stevens and audited by Sir C. Paul Chater, C.M.G. were unanimously accepted. The receipts totalled \$2,435.10 (principal items being seat rents \$380.00; offertories \$929.79, donations including Chaplain's fees remitted \$1,019.30) and the expenditure to \$2,389.38, leaving a balance of \$45.72.

The Auditor's honorary service was thankfully referred to by the Chairman, and the thanks of the meeting were accorded to Sir C. Paul Chater for his interest and assistance, the Auditor elected for ensuing year being Mr. E. Hayward.

The retiring Vestry—Engineer Captain J. Fielder, Messrs. G. M. Eves and R. Packham—were re-elected, and Messrs. H. T. Richardson, B. L. Frost and T. Hunter elected as Vestry for 1909.

The Chairman, after thanking the outgoing Vestry for their past services, requested those elected to use their individual influence with the residents of Kowloon to support the financial needs of the church in order that satisfactory arrangements might be made to engage the services of a Chaplain in succession to the Rev. A. J. Stevens to whom on the motion of the Bishop the members present expressed their sympathy in the difficulties he has experienced during his Chaplaincy and their cordial wishes for his future welfare.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Lesberil for her honorary services as Organist since the departure of Miss Books.

## SUPREME COURT.

Monday, February 1st.

## IN PROBATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

## AN AMBIGUOUS WILL.

A friendly action was heard by His Lordship who was asked to place the true construction on the will of the late Joao Antonio da Silva. The plaintiff was J. M. P. da Silva, son of deceased and executor of the will, the defendant being M. A. P. da Silva, widow of the deceased.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. K. Holmes represented the plaintiff, and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, appeared for the defendant.

Sir Henry Berkeley informed the Court that the action was rendered necessary in order that the true construction might be placed on the will of the late Mr. da Silva. The action was practically in the nature of a friendly suit, and was brought about because of the inability of the widow and the executor and trustee to agree to the proper construction to be placed principally on the fifth clause of the will. The other clauses would also be laid before the Court, and the construction to be placed upon them would also be solicited. The contention, so far as Counsel could see, would be as to the true construction of clause five, but it was possible that the parties might not agree on the other clauses.

Mr. Pollock—There is also a question about repairs and insurance.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The question will arise on the other clauses.

Counsel then read the originating summons, and the following questions which they asked his Lordship to determine:

1. What estate or interest does the defendant take in the chattels and effects mentioned in the fifth paragraph of the will of the said Joao Maria Antonio da Silva, deceased?

2. If the defendant takes a life interest in the said chattels and effects (determinable on re-marriage) what, if any, inventory should be signed, or undertaking as to safe custody should be given by her in respect thereof?

3. What estate or interest does the defendant take in the testator's leasehold properties?

4. If the defendant takes a life interest in such leasehold properties (determinable on re-marriage) is she entitled to the enjoyment of the whole thereof in specie, or should the plaintiff as executor take the rents and profits thereof (excepting such messuage as may for the time being be occupied by the defendant) and pay the same after deducting Crown rent, rates, ordinary repairs, insurance and other outgoings to the defendant?

5. What estate or interest does the defendant take in the shares of the testator in public companies, and what, if any, transfers of such shares should be made by the executor?

6. What person or persons should have the custody of the testator's collection of coins referred to in the said will?

After hearing the numerous authorities quoted by Counsel for the plaintiff and defendant, his Lordship decided that the costs of the application should come out of the estate, and be taxed as between solicitor and client. The trustee could raise the money by the sale or mortgage of shares.

The case was adjourned *sine die*.

Wednesday, February 3rd.

## IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

## BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

## THE PEAK MURDER APPEAL.

Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared to appeal against the finding of the jury in the Peak Murder case on the ground that the evidence had not been translated to the prisoners. The Hon. Mr. W. R. Davies, K.C., Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, appeared as respondent.

Mr. Calthrop said the point was whether the jury were entitled to give their verdict on evidence which had been left to them, and which had not been translated to the prisoners. Evidence was given by fourteen witnesses for the prosecution, four of whom gave their evidence in English and ten in Punti.

The Attorney-General—I desire at once to intervene and say I don't admit any of this. It should have been stated on affidavit.

The Chief Justice—I don't see the necessity for an affidavit.

Mr. Calthrop said the English evidence was not translated into Hoklo to the prisoners, neither was the evidence of the ten Punti witnesses. The Chinese detective who arrested the second prisoner admitted in his evidence that he did not tell the accused what he was charged with, remarking that he only spoke Punti, and the prisoner, being a Hoklo, would not understand more than two words in ten. Counsel submitted that a prisoner could not be convicted on anything but legal evidence; that was the only evidence the law allowed to be left to a jury. In a civil action admissions could be made by counsel and by the parties so as to dispense with strictly legal evidence, but in a criminal case it was clearly laid down that no admissions could be made at all.

The Chief Justice—In felony?

Mr. Calthrop—I will go as far as misdemeanour. Proceeding, Counsel said the reason for this was that before 1836 counsel were not allowed to appear on behalf of prisoners in felony cases, therefore all the evidence had to be given strictly. He submitted that the alteration in the law which allowed Counsel to appear for prisoners in felony cases had not made any alteration in the law of evidence.

The Chief Justice—Do you mean to say prisoners were not allowed to retain counsel?

Mr. Calthrop—They were allowed to retain them, but counsel could not examine or address the Court. Continuing, counsel submitted that all the evidence left to a jury must be evidence which the prisoner had heard or, if deaf and dumb, which had been communicated to him by signs. Whether a prisoner was defended by counsel or not it was just as necessary that the evidence should be translated to him. A prisoner had always been entitled to make a statement, and it was impossible for a prisoner to make an adequate statement unless he heard what the evidence was against him. Another reason was that he could not assist his counsel in the cross-examination unless the evidence was translated at the time. The ordinances out here, when a case came before the magistrate, decided that evidence must be, when necessary, translated to a prisoner. Mr. Calthrop submitted that neither counsel for a prisoner or a prisoner could waive any irregularity as to the admission of evidence. If any evidence was left to the jury which ought not to have been left to them, the verdict must be quashed.

The Attorney-General submitted that this was not a question of law within the meaning of the section. Section 78 of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance of 1899 said a judge might, in his discretion, reserve for the consideration of the Full Court any question of law which might arise on the trial of any indictment.

The Chief Justice—What is this, if it is not a question of law?

The Attorney-General—A question of procedure or practice. The Attorney-General then proceeded to point out to their Lordships what had been held not to be questions of law. The prisoners in the case, he said, were not in any respect demnified or prejudiced. In the Colony where he last served there were four languages used in the Courts, and it was not the practice to interpret the evidence.

The Chief Justice—if we decide against you in this case I may say that the Courts in the other Colony will follow our practice.

The Attorney-General—I doubt it.

The Chief Justice—if we have an empire of races of many nationalities we must have a procedure—if we are going to hang anyone—that is just.

The Attorney-General—My learned friend has not cited to your Lordships any real authority to show that the fact of counsel representing the prisoners does not avail in favour of the prosecution.

The Chief Justice—Is not this just the same as if the prisoners were absent? They must be present at the trial. Apart from the authorities, would you contend that this case could have been maintained if the prisoners were not represented by counsel?

The Attorney-General—That is extremely doubtful.

The Chief Justice—That is the only point we are doubtful of.

The Attorney-General—There is nothing in the law that I can discover which requires evidence to be interpreted.

The Chief Justice—It amounts to this: if the evidence is not interpreted, why should the prisoners be present? The law says they must be present, and the reason of the law is that they should hear and understand what is going on. If they don't hear and understand, they might as well be absent.

The Attorney-General—Counsel was instructed in this case through a solicitor and through an interpreter. I submit it is not a case in which any hardship has been inflicted. It is simply a case of irregularity in the procedure, and this provision in the law does not authorise, as the Imperial Act does, a new trial. It requires that the conviction should be either affirmed or set aside.

The Chief Justice—What is the law? If the conviction is quashed, could they be tried again?

The Attorney-General—I should say not, but I am not prepared to say that I should not try them again.

The Chief Justice—It seems to me that quashing a conviction means there is no conviction.

The Attorney-General—The traditional practice of the Court has been followed in this matter—the practice which the late Court interpreter, Mr. Li Hong Mi, stated in his affidavit, has prevailed since he has been here.

The Chief Justice—Not since I have been here. In the first murder trial I conducted, I ordered the procedure to be altered.

The Court reserved its decision.

## A QUESTION OF JURISDICTION.

*Re Chan Yuen Shan ex parte Chan King Po.*

In this appeal Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the judgment creditor, and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Crowther Smith (of Messrs. Almada and Smith) for the petitioning creditor.

Sir Henry Berkeley told the Court this was an appeal from a decision of the Chief Justice on a question of jurisdiction arising on a bankruptcy petition. The matter was argued before the Chief Justice in the Court below, and he had some hesitation in bringing the matter again by way of appeal, but did so because the matter was one of considerable difficulty and because the Chief Justice had mentioned "that it was by no means clear", although he arrived ultimately at a decision. The question here was whether by certain acts or certain conduct, in certain premises, with regard to certain property which was being sold, the debtor had made that place a place of business. He thought the determination of this Court would depend entirely upon the view the Court was inclined to take of the evidence as to the acts of the debtor and the place where those acts were performed. He submitted that the premises of the Kwong Mau firm could not be found to be a place of business by implication, but by direct evidence only.

Mr. Pollock contended that the premises of the Kwong Mau here were a place of business.

After argument their Lordships reserved their decision.

Thursday, February 4th.

## IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

## THE ALLANA ESTATE.

The Chief Justice delivered his decision on a point raised by Mr. Hastings with regard to the jurisdiction of the Court over strangers to bankruptcy proceedings. The point was raised on a motion brought by the Official Receiver to set aside the sale of the bankrupt's property to S. A. Marican.

Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) represented the Official Receiver, and Mr. John Hastings (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) appeared for the purchaser.

His Lordship said—A motion has been made in this case which is practically to set aside an assignment made by the bankrupt Allana of his business to Marican, for certain reasons which are set out in the notice of motion. I say practically to set aside, because I am not quite sure that the motion may not require some amendment, but a preliminary objection was taken by Mr. Hastings on behalf of the purchaser of the business, that this Court sitting in bankruptcy has no jurisdiction to entertain such a motion, and this question was argued on the basis that the motion was, as I have described it. The objection stated shortly is this: That this is a question which concerns a stranger to the bankruptcy; that the Court of Bankruptcy at Home has jurisdiction to decide such a question only in virtue of section 102 of the Bankruptcy Act of 1853; that section has not been introduced into the Colonial Ordinance No. 7 of 1891, which is otherwise based in the English Act, and that therefore this Court being the bankruptcy side of the Supreme Court, has no jurisdiction. The problem thus raised is one which I have had the greatest difficulty in solving. Sections 122-162 of the Home Act give certain power to the Bankruptcy Court, which is to decide all questions of priorities, and all other questions of law and fact which may arise in any case of bankruptcy, of which it may deem it necessary or expedient to decide for the purpose of doing complete justice or making a complete distribution of property. This section has been omitted from the Hongkong Ordinance for reasons which are not apparent and I do not think I have the right to enquire *aliunde* as from the explanatory report made by the Attorney-General of the time what the reasons were which induced him to omit it. But I must seek for the reasons as best I may. He cannot have thought it superfluous, because no law officer in a Colony would take upon himself the great responsibility of so deciding with regard to an important section of such a piece of legislation. But he may have thought it unnecessary in this Colony, having special regard to the constitution of the Supreme Court of the Colony and this is the contention advanced by Mr. Harston in support of the motion. Now it has been assumed throughout the argument that the object of section 102 which was section 72 of the act of 1869 is the only section which confers jurisdiction on the court of bankruptcy against strangers. This is certainly not said in so many words, but it does not seem as if there is a consensus of opinion that this is its object, that is to give the bankruptcy court jurisdiction to decide questions affecting strangers to the bankruptcy which would otherwise be decided by the other court. Now whatever may be said as to the personal jurisdiction of the judges in England, the different jurisdictions of the Supreme Court are well defined, but here everything is vested in the Chief Justice, the Puisne Judge has a co-ordinate jurisdiction, but for all practical purposes the Chief Justice is the justice at common law in equity and in bankruptcy, and the Attorney-General of the time may have said "What is the use of saying that the Chief Justice may do one day in bankruptcy what he may do the next day in the same court, with the same staff in original jurisdiction"? I do not say that the reasoning is satisfactory and had I been drafting the ordinance, I should not have omitted this section, because it is desirable to preserve in the Colonial courts as far as possible the forms of the courts at Home. But in order to adopt this reasoning I should have to satisfy myself that there is no provision which preserves here the lines of demarcation of the several jurisdictions of the English courts. Mr. Harston's most ingenious argument in brief is this—By section 4 of the repeal Ordinance No. 3, 1855, which dealt with the constitution of the Supreme Court, it is provided that it shall not be necessary to bring any proceeding on the equity side of the court for the purpose of bringing to another court any equitable claim, defence or question incident or collateral or arising out of any proceeding on any other side of the said court, but every such claim may be heard on petition or motion instituted in such last mentioned

proceeding. By section 4 of Ordinance 5 of 1864 the old Bankruptcy Ordinance it was provided that the Supreme Court "shall have jurisdiction in bankruptcy, and the Chief Justice, when sitting in bankruptcy, shall have all the powers rights and privileges which are now exercised or enjoyed by him, except where this ordinance otherwise specially provides." The subsequent repeal ordinances 20 of 1891, bankruptcy, and 6 of 1901, civil procedure, preserve rights and privileges etc., jurisdiction or principle, etc., created by the ordinances "severally repealed." The argument is this that the court of bankruptcy by 5 of 1864 has the same powers rights and privileges as the Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction and in this jurisdiction by 3 of 1858 the distinction for the purpose of jurisdiction between equity and common law is abolished, therefore the court in bankruptcy has equity jurisdiction and therefore section 102 is unnecessary because it would confer a jurisdiction "to decide priorities etc." which it already has. It seems to me quite probable that this was in the mind of the Attorney-General when drafting the bankruptcy ordinance in 1891, but I hesitate to adopt it, because sec. 5 of 1864 refers to the "Chief Justice sitting in bankruptcy," and it seems to me that the "powers, rights and privileges," which are conferred upon him when he is sitting in bankruptcy are those personal privileges enjoyed by a judge at common law, as for example the power to commit for contempt, and from my experience of drafting I know that it is necessary in order to remove doubts to confer these old common law privileges on a judge when he is sitting in a newly created jurisdiction. I express this opinion in order to show that I have not overlooked Mr. Harston's argument. I am not positive whether it is the answer to it, but in view of the opinion I have formed on the question, looked at from another point of view, it is not necessary for me to decide the point definitely. I must now look at section 102 a little more closely and see whether what I am asked to do in this case does not fall within the inherent jurisdiction of the Court to carry out the Bankruptcy Ordinance, with the administration of which it is charged. Ellis v. Silber was much relied on by Mr. Hastings, but all it decides is that the jurisdiction conferred on the Bankruptcy Court by section 102 is not an exclusive jurisdiction; and that if proceedings are being taken in the Court of Common Law or Equity, it cannot be said by virtue of this section that they ought to have been brought in the bankruptcy. On the other hand it is undoubtedly the fact that in all the cases either this section or its predecessor, section 72 of the Act of 1869 is referred to. But the contention in this case is that the effect of section 102 is to create all the jurisdiction which is necessary to the Bankruptcy Court to deal with a question whenever a stranger is affected. Now, the first thing which strikes one on looking at the section, is the reference to "priorities." It says that every Court having jurisdiction in Bankruptcy under the Act, is to have full power to decide all questions of priorities. Pausing there for a moment, certain priorities over other debts in respect of a certain class of debts—rates, wages etc. are created by section 31 of the Ordinance, which is to all intents and purposes the same provision as sections 1 and 2 of the Act of 1888, which is added to section 40 of the Act of 1883. Now, as these priorities, which rank among themselves *pari passu*, are determined by the Act itself, it seems clear that they are not the priorities referred to in section 102. We must therefore go back to section 9 (2), which is section 10 (2) of our Ordinance. That clause provides that the provisions of the section which deal with the effect of a receiving order, are not to affect the power of a secured creditor to realise or otherwise deal with his security. It is obvious that questions of priority may arise among the secured creditors; and as they lie outside the bankruptcy, unless they are brought in by the creditors themselves, the Court of Bankruptcy could have no power of dealing with such question. Power is given to the Court at home by section 102 to settle these priorities, and hence I think must have arisen the idea that the section confers a power on the Court to determine questions affecting strangers; for secured credi-

tors, unless they come in, are accurately described as strangers to the bankruptcy; and therefore, by section 102 the Court has power to decide the priorities of these creditors among themselves. I am not sure that this does not furnish an answer to the question which has been raised as to the jurisdiction of this Court; subject to what I have already said, I should have thought it clear that the Chief Justice sitting in bankruptcy could not decide questions of priorities among secured creditors in the absence of a provision resembling section 102. I think therefore that the omission of such a provision must have been deliberate. I shall have to consider the effect of section 30 of the Ordinance which refers to secured creditors, presently. I think that this relieves me of the necessity of considering whether the remaining words of this part of section 102—"and all other questions whatsoever whether of law or fact"—are to be governed by the *ejusdem generis* rule, for, if one part of the section was deliberately omitted, all of it must be treated as omitted. But one thing is quite clear, that the jurisdiction conferred by section 102 is additional to the normal jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court—the section itself begins "subject to the provisions of this Act"—and it is here that I think I have lighted upon the weak spot in Mr. Hastings' argument. Granted that section 102 confers a special power to deal with questions affecting strangers, and without going to the extreme of saying that this means questions arising between strangers (because although, in the absence of the authorities I should be strongly inclined to think it did, in the presence of those authorities I can hardly do so) it does not follow that all questions affecting strangers are dealt with solely under section 102. For there is this question which must frequently arise, and—looking at the cases quoted in the books under section 9, I should say has frequently arisen—Is the creditor who says he is secured really secured? If the Bankruptcy Court cannot decide this question, but must, as it is contended, always remit the decision of it to another Court, endless litigation would result, with endless costs, and the true functions of the Court of Bankruptcy would disappear. It seems to me impossible to contend that, if a creditor says he is secured, the Court cannot decide whether he is secured. I think that the Court has power under section 43 to decide the question, for under that section (section 50 of the Act at Home) the trustee must take possession of the bankrupt's property, and he may apply to the Court not merely to enforce his acquisition, but also to enforce his retention of it. Now, if the trustee goes into possession of a business; as he might have done in the present case, a creditor who held a security such as Mr. Marican does here, would naturally come forward and set up his security: the Court has power to enforce the trustee's "retention" of the business, and I think on the ordinary meaning of language this must mean to decide the question of his right to retain possession. What difference can it make if the person who holds the security is not a creditor? It is perfectly true that a secured creditor may under section 30 of the Colonial Ordinance, which is based on the bankruptcy rules at Home, and not on a section of the Act, realise his security and prove for the balance of his claim; but until he does this he rests on his security, and stands outside the bankruptcy, and is just as much a stranger to it as a person in the position of Mr. Marican who has bought the business. Now let us see what the position is. I send the trustee into possession, as if he were a receiver of the bankrupt's property; I will assume that the trustee knows nothing of what has taken place between the bankrupt and Marican, but knows only that the business has been carried on by the bankrupt. Then Mr. Marican, finding the trustee in possession, wants to have the rights, which he alleges he has, protected. That he may bring an action at Common Law I have no doubt; but may he not also come to me, sitting in bankruptcy, and say "your order sending the trustee into possession is wrong; the business belongs not to the bankrupt, but to me, because I have a deed of assignment"? Surely he may, and this without it being necessary to find special authority in the act. If, then, I have jurisdiction

to entertain such an application, I must also have jurisdiction to enforce the acquisition and retention of this property on the application of the trustee, for the question to be decided is precisely the same in both cases: is this business the bankrupt's property, or has he made a valid assignment of it to the person who alleges that he is the true owner? And if the right of the trustee is challenged in any other way, as in this case, by the person alleging himself to be the owner, setting up his right, by proclaiming its existence in Court or in any other way which would prevent the trustee acting without bringing the question before the Court, it is inevitable that I must have jurisdiction to decide the question of right involved, because it is precisely the same as in the simpler cases I have supposed. I therefore am of opinion that I have jurisdiction to entertain this motion. One thing further should be said: that even supposing the argument on which my opinion is based is wrong, I am very strongly of opinion that Mr. Marican is not a stranger to the bankruptcy. The facts are simply these: the assignment was made on 2nd November, the petition in bankruptcy was filed on the 3rd, and the only assets are the proceeds of the sale—the purchase price \$400 a month for a certain period. It would require a very great deal to convince me that the purchase was not made by Marican with a view to bankruptcy proceedings, and still more to induce me to hold that this did not amount to a submission to the Bankruptcy Court sufficient to give jurisdiction to deal with the assignment. The preliminary objection being decided in favour of the petitioning creditor, he must have the costs of the day in any event when the costs of the motion come to taxation.

**APPLICATION TO WITHDRAW PETITION.**

Re Luk Lai Cho *ex parte* Lo Chan.

Mr. Lee d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell), who appeared for the petitioning creditor, stated that, since the petition had been served on the debtor, arrangements had been made between the debtor and creditor for a settlement of the debt. He therefore asked his Lordship to allow the petition to be withdrawn.

His Lordship—What sort of arrangements?

Mr. Almada—I understand the creditor has been paid.

His Lordship—What about the other creditor?

Mr. Almada—No other creditors have filed in proofs. No receiving order has been made yet.

His Lordship—The petition has not yet been heard?

Mr. Almada—No.

His Lordship—I have no jurisdiction.

**A MISSING DEBTOR.**

Re Stella Brumfield, *ex parte* the debtor

Mr. O. D. Thomson, who represented the debtor, applied for adjudication. There was an affidavit by Mr. Wakeman on the file stating that he was present at a meeting of creditors when a resolution was passed that the debtor should be adjudged bankrupt. To-day was the day appointed for the public examination, but the debtor had gone to Shanghai.

His Lordship—That was very wrongful.

Mr. Thomson—I had a letter from her giving her reasons. She said she had no money to live on. She ought to have stayed.

His Lordship—Let the public examination stand over.

Mr. Thomson—That can stand over, but I don't see why the adjudication should.

His Lordship—I will leave that in the hands of the Official Receiver. He can decide what action shall be taken.

**"A PERPETUAL MOTION."**

Re Tsang King.

When this case was mentioned Mr. Holborow (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) applied for another extension of time before the motion was heard.

Mr. Harston agreed, remarking that it was necessary.

His Lordship—This is a sort of perpetual motion. What time do you ask?

Mr. Holborow—Three weeks.

His Lordship—Better take a month.

Mr. J. H. Scott, head of the firm of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, left Shanghai on the 30th ult. for Hankow en route to Peking.

**THE HARBOUR MASTER AND DEBASED COINAGE.**

**A TRAMWAY EPISODE.**

Interesting summons cases came on for hearing before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on the 2nd inst. In one the Harbour Master proceeded against the motorman of tramcar 28 for alleged assault, and in the other the Tramway Co. summoned the Harbour Master for obstruction.

Mr. J. Gray Scott, manager of the Tramway Co., drew the attention of the Court to an error in the summons taken out by the complainant, but remarked that he had the right defendant present. The complainant in the case, he remarked, had not adopted an attitude that encouraged them to assist him.

His Worship decided to take the charge of assault first, and after a little delay the motorman, Ho Kwong, appeared in Court.

Commander Basil R. H. Taylor, R.N., Harbour Master, stated that at about 4.30 on the afternoon of January 25th he boarded tramcar No. 28 and handed the conductor a dollar bill. He was tendered eighty cents change in Chinese money, and a ten cent Hongkong piece. Complainant refused to accept the Chinese money, demanding either Hongkong coinage or the return of his dollar. On arrival at his destination at the bottom of Icehouse Street he got out of the car, and the conductor, who was still arguing with him, got out also. Witness again asked for change in Hongkong money, or the return of his dollar, but the conductor declined to give him either. This was in front of the car. They stood there for about a minute, and then the defendant started the car. Neither the defendant nor the conductor had any number visible, so that probably accounted for the error in the summons mentioned by Mr. Scott.

His Worship—Supposing the conductor had given you back the dollar?—I had one ten cent piece in my pocket which I could have given him.

He didn't ask you for ten cents, did he?—No.

Did you tell him that if he gave back the dollar you would give him ten cents?—No.

Don't you think he would have returned the dollar if you had offered him ten cents?—I suppose he would have, but I was in a tremendous hurry on the occasion.

But the quickest way would have been to have given the ten cents, wouldn't it?—I suppose it would.

Did you go in front of the car purposely?—Yes.

The weak point in your case is that conductors are not obliged to give change!—This man offered it to me, and he should have given me proper change.

The motorman was then called, and declared that when the complainant stopped his car he asked him to sign his name. The Harbour Master would not sign, so the witness got back on his car. Complainant continued to stand in front, so the motorman sounded the gong to start the car. Even when he sounded the gong complainant did not move, so he again got out of the car, handed the Commander a way bill and pencil, and again asked him to sign his name. Complainant pushed his hand away and refused to sign, and refused a third time when asked. Witness told him to take the ninety cents to the Tramway Company and get it changed there. Complainant continued to stand some three or four feet in front of the car, so witness started the car at one point. Complainant pushed at the head of the car with his hands. Witness again sounded the gong, and then complainant stood to one side, but held on to the car.

Commander Taylor said the first part of this story related to the conductor. He could not remember anything being said about taking the ninety cents to the Company for change.

His Worship thought the complainant had no right to stop the car, therefore the starting of the car, which would otherwise have been an assault, was no assault. The charge would be dismissed.

The summons against the Harbour Master for obstruction was then mentioned.

His Worship (to Mr. Scott)—If you want to go on, I will go on with it.

Mr. Scott said the position was that the conductor did not specify the amount of the fare. He simply said "Fare please," and in this case if the fare had been tendered there would have been no trouble. Trouble like this did occur at times, but he had never known a conductor to refuse to return a dollar. The defendant was asked to write his name on the way bill.

The conductor of car 28 was then called, and deposed to receiving a dollar bank note from the defendant. He returned as change eighty cents in Chinese money and a Hongkong ten cent piece. Defendant said he did not want Chinese money and asked witness to change it. The conductor told him to take the ninety cents to the company and get change there. Defendant then put the ninety cents on the shelf of the car, and witness went to the rear. He was not asked for the dollar again. Later witness sounded the bell for the motorman to start the car, but as it did not start he went to the front to see what was the matter. Seeing the defendant standing in front of the car he handed him a way bill and asked him to sign it, but the defendant refused.

Mr. Scott explained that he had written to the defendant telling him that the ninety cents were at his disposal when he liked to send for them. He then put the following questions to the witness through the court:

Did you have your cap and badge number on?—Yes.

Do you know if the motorman had his cap and badge number on?—Yes.

By Commander Taylor:

Had either of you caps on at the time?—Yes, we were on duty, and it is the custom to wear caps on duty.

Did you, as a matter of fact, have your caps on?—Yes.

The motorman was again called to the stand, and gave evidence similar to that adduced in the first case.

He was then questioned by Mr. Scott.

How long was the car delayed?—About four or five minutes.

Are you quite sure that the defendant asked the conductor to return his dollar note?—Yes.

When he asked for the note back did he tender ten cents in exchange?—No.

Cross-examined by Commander Taylor:

Did you see another car behind?—Yes.

How did you manage to see it if you were in front of your car? Did you see it through the car?—I saw it when I was on the ground.

You had a hat on?—Yes.

I think you said I held on to the car while it was going?—At that time I stopped the car.

You said just now I put up my hands to stop the car?—You put your hands on the front of it.

Do you think I am stronger than the car?—I don't know about that.

John Ragoul, the tiger trainer at Harrington's Circus, was then called. He spoke to seeing the Harbour Master tender a Hongkong dollar to the conductor, and refuse to take the change tendered because it was Chinese money. The defendant got in front of the car and declined to allow it to proceed until he got his right money.

Cross-examined by Commander Taylor:

Where were you sitting in the car?—Right in front.

Behind the driver?—Yes.

Were you sitting next to me then? I was in the front seat.—You were on one side, I was on the other.

Mr. Scott informed the Court that this incident, which resulted in the appearance of both parties, was as objectionable to him as it was to the defendant. It would not have occurred, however, had not the defendant taken action—against the motorman of the tram. Mr. Scott asked his Worship to accept the statement that upon the Harbour Master alone rested the responsibility for his position. He thought it was clearly proved that an obstruction was caused under clause 58 of Tramway Ordinance 10 of 1902. Anyone causing an obstruction of this nature was liable to the maximum penalty of \$1,000, and in the event of the fine not being paid, to twelve months' imprisonment. He did not suggest that this penalty should be inflicted on the defendant, but he appealed to the Magistrate, in the event of his finding the case proven, to inflict a heavy penalty.

The basis of the whole trouble was the subsidiary coin question, but he submitted that the Tramway Company were not responsible for the deplorable condition of the coinage of this Colony. On the contrary, he believed that no company here suffered a more serious loss than the Tramway Company on this account. If the defendant desired to commence a crusade against the condition of the coinage here he might find in the Tramway Company a staunch supporter, but he was not justified in making them subject to these unwarrantable attacks. The Company carried on its business not without considerable difficulty, because it was not an easy thing to satisfy the public. But from the evidence given by the defendant he showed that by a very simple operation the whole trouble might have been saved. He admitted that he handed a dollar to the conductor when he had a ten-cent piece in his pocket. The defendant had no right to demand change, it was his duty to tender the fare. But as the Company were anxious to facilitate matters, they gave change where possible. It would be very bad, however, in a place where the coinage was ninety per cent Chinese, were the Company to adopt his attitude and say they would only accept legal currency of the Colony. As a matter of fact, had they chosen to be objectionable, they might have handed him the money in British copper, which was a legal tender, but which he would no doubt have refused.

His Worship—The question is whether the defendant should get back the dollar.

Mr. Scott—His obvious remedy was to write to me, and I should have been most happy to have sent his change as he wished it in British coinage. If your Worship decides that the evidence is sufficient to justify a conviction, I will instance other cases where the defendant has been a source of trouble in the carrying out of the tramway service.

His Worship—I cannot take that into consideration.

Commander Taylor remarked that one of the witnesses said the car following them was at the Hongkong Hotel corner. When he got out he walked back towards the Hongkong Hotel, but could not see another car, and that bore out his contention that the delay was a very short one. A great deal was made of asking him to sign a paper, but he could not see any obligation on his part to sign anything as both the conductor and motorman knew him perfectly well. Mr. Scott made a great point of the currency of the Colony. He had never, by any chance, accepted Chinese money, and never intended to.

Defendant then asked his Worship to read the charge which ran "without lawful excuse did obstruct."

Proceeding, Commander Taylor said he had a very lawful excuse, as by section 4 of Ordinance 5 of 1865 he was trying to prevent the conductor from committing a felony. He contended that this money was wrongfully converted by the conductor, and under the section mentioned this amounted to larceny. He also wished to point out that up till the present moment the Tramway Company still had his money. Mr. Scott said if the speaker had written he (Mr. Scott) would have sent the money. He called Mr. Scott up on the telephone, as he had no time to write letters on these trivial subjects. When he rang up he could not get anyone on the telephone, but was told that Mr. Scott was expected back every moment, and that when he did arrive the speaker would be informed. Then he got a very impudent letter from Mr. Scott saying that he could send for his money if he wanted it. That was very much at variance with his recent statement that he should have been delighted to have sent it.

Mr. Scott—The defendant stated that he could not understand why the motorman and conductor desired him to write his name. That was merely done for their own protection.

His Worship held that there was no evidence of a felony, or of attempt to commit a felony. He found that the defendant obstructed the car wilfully, and without any lawful excuse. (To Mr. Scott)—You mentioned something just now with regard to the penalty.

Mr. Scott—My point was this: the defendant has on several occasions made himself very objectionable.

Commander Taylor—I object to that. It has nothing whatever to do with the case in hand.

His Worship (to Mr. Scott)—In what way? Mr. Scott—in declining to pay his fare. On previous occasions he has placed himself in such a position as to enable us, if we wished to do so, to charge him in this Court.

His Worship—Do you admit that or not? You need not unless you like.

Commander Taylor—It is absolutely untrue.

His Worship imposed a fine of \$1.

Commander Taylor—I would point out to your Worship I have not yet got back my dollar.

Mr. Scott—We are prepared to give it back at any time.

His Worship—Send a ten-cent piece to the Company, and they will return the dollar.

Commander Taylor asked his Worship to grant a summons against the conductor of the tram under the section he referred to, but the Magistrate declined.

of the school is capable of accommodating. Later applications for admission have had reluctantly to be refused. The number of school days in 1908 was 224 and the average attendance 61.71. In 1908, 72 pupils were presented for the Inspector of Schools' annual examination and the school was again returned as "thoroughly efficient."

While regretting the noise which has formed the subject of comment by the Inspector, it has to be noted that the very limited accommodation militates against the possibility of a better exercise of discipline so essential and eminently desirable in every school organisation. Having regard, however, to the smallness of the fees charged to the scholars, the cost of house rent in a suitable location for the school is comparatively prohibitive to the management without having to resort to higher school fees, which in the majority of cases would be beyond the means of parents to pay. A half-team was presented by this School for the Hygiene School Competition held by Government in Dec. 1908. This school was bracketed first in the aggregate of marks, but, owing to the absence of the full complement of competitors, the school was not awarded the shield. Maria Remedios' paper was awarded 75.7 per cent of marks; it was listed first by the examiner, Dr. Pearse, in the half team presented by the school. Acknowledgments are due from the management and staff of the school to the following donors to the Prize Fund:—Right Rev. Bishop D. Pozzoni, special prize for Christian doctrine; Mrs. J. J. Leiria, special prize for hygiene; Committee Club Lusitano, Messrs. Noronha & Co., L. Noronha, J. M. E. Machado, C. C. Corveth, Ho Wing, Ho Fook, Choa Leep Chee, J. M. de Castro Basto, G. Sequeira, A. J. M. Gomes, H. J. M. de Carvalho, Julio A. Carvalho, C. F. Carvalho, E. J. de Figueiredo, F. P. de V. Soares, F. Montalto de Jesus, M. E. da Silva, J. M. Noronha, D. A. Cordeiro, A. E. Silva, J. M. Placé da Silva, and friends who desire to remain anonymous.

A very satisfactory report by the Inspector of Schools was then read. Mr. WOLFE returned the school as thoroughly efficient, and recommended the full grant of 35/-

Mr. LEIRIA then gave an interesting history of the school, and remarked that, when it could take its rank with the best schools in the Colony in a public examination like the hygiene competition, he thought the time had arrived when the management could, with confidence, consider the enlargement of the scope of the school. During the month a great deal had been heard about the Governor's excellent scheme for a university. When that project materialised, he hoped to see undergraduates from the Victoria Anglo-Portuguese school matriculate in the future Hongkong university with which Sir Frederick Lugard's name would ever be gratefully identified by the younger generation of the Colony. The speaker then thanked all for their attendance, and concluded by asking Mr. Wolfe, on behalf of Mrs. Leiria, to present Miss Marie Remedios with a special prize for ranking first in the hygiene competition.

Mrs. LEIRIA then presented the prizes, and interesting addresses followed by Mr. E. D. C. WOLFE and by Consul-General WILDER.

The Government, remarks the *Japan Chronicle*, seems determined to carry out the policy of high tariffs against imports, without rhyme or reason. It is noted that cotton satins, cotton prints, cotton velvet, and grew and white shirtings being protected by the Conventional Tariffs, the import duty on these articles does not exceed 8 per cent. *ad valorem*, against about 30 per cent. on other fabrics. When the excise of 15 per cent. is added the duty on the articles in question does not exceed 25 per cent. (as if this were not enough, in all conscience!). Accordingly, we understand from vernacular contemporaries, the Government intends to increase the duty when the opportunity comes "in justice to other fabrics." Japanese dealers interested in the lines concerned are opposed to an increase of duty. They fear that when the duty is increased the importation will be checked, and maintain that as these imported cotton goods are of high quality and cannot yet be produced in Japan, they should be admitted at a reasonable rate as hitherto. A proposal is on foot among the dealers to address a memorial to the Government accordingly.

## THE RECENT ARMED ROBBERIES.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that the perpetrators of the numerous armed robberies which have been reported of late are falling into the hands of the vigilant police.

Two arrests have been made in connection with the armed robbery which occurred at No. 2, Reclamation Street, Yaumati, in which a number of women were bound and gagged. The men arrested have admitted stealing from the premises, but stated that they did not go there to commit armed robbery.

In connection with the armed robbery on the border at Santin, Sergeant Cooper has been successful in making an arrest. The man was charged at the Magistracy on Feb. 3rd, and the hearing of the case was adjourned.

In the burglary at Yaumati which brought about the death of Lance-Sergeant Mills three more men have been captured. They were placed before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy yesterday and remanded till Friday, when they will appear in Court with the other men arrested in connection with this affair, to answer to the charge of murder.

Two men arrested in connection with the Mautakok "hold up," and a man and a woman who were detained on a charge of receiving the stolen property, will appear before the Court a week hence.

The facetious robbers who called on a party of New Year Celebrants in a shop in Kwei Wa Lane, Central District, and after tendering the compliments of the season covered the inmates with revolvers or threatened them with knives, have also been apprehended, and will appear before the Court shortly.

## GREAT BRITAIN AND TIBET.

## TEXT OF THE TREATY.

The text of the Treaty concluded between the United Kingdom, China, and Tibet relative to the trade of Tibet has just been published. The new regulations ensure for British subjects in Tibet liberty to deal in kind or in money, to sell their goods to whomsoever they please, to purchase native commodities from whomsoever they please, to hire transport of any kind, and to conduct in general their business transaction in conformity with local usage and without any vexatious restrictions or oppressive measures whatever. China engages to arrange effective police measures at the marts and along the route to the marts. Great Britain undertakes to withdraw the trade agents' guards at the marts, and to station no troops in Tibet, so as to remove all cause for suspicion and disturbance among the inhabitants.

It is further provided that in the event of disputes arising at the marts between British subjects and persons of Chinese and Tibetan nationalities, they shall be inquired into and settled in personal conference between the British trade agent at the nearest mart and the Chinese and Tibetan authorities of the Judicial Court at the mart, the object of personal conference being to ascertain facts and to do justice. Where there is a divergence of view the law of the country to which the defendant belongs shall guide. In any of such mixed cases the officer, or officers, of the defendant's nationality shall preside at the trial, the officer, or officers, of the plaintiff's country merely attending to watch the course of the trial. All questions in regard to rights, whether of property or person, arising between British subjects shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the British authorities.

The Tibetan authorities, in obedience to the instructions of the Peking Government, having a strong desire to reform the judicial system of Tibet, and to bring it into accord with that of Western nations, Great Britain agrees to relinquish her rights of extra-territoriality in Tibet whenever such rights are relinquished in China, and when she is satisfied that the state of the Tibetan laws and the arrangements for their administration and other considerations warrant her in so doing.

A Japanese paper reports that Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co. are preparing to establish a large bank with a capital of one million pounds sterling. The object of the proposed bank is said to principally undertake foreign loans for Japanese.

## CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

January 30th.

## MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTION.

There was an election here to-day of a foreign member of the French Municipal Council. Mr. H. S. Kavarana was re-elected. He has been a member of the Council for the last eight years.

## HOUSE TAX.

The Chief Superintendent of the Canton Police has reported that the total amount of house tax collected last year was \$260,000, showing an increase of \$40,000 on the previous year's collections. This money is devoted to the maintenance of the Police.

## INTENDED CHANGE OF PROVINCIAL CUSTOMS

## ADMINISTRATION.

The Local Authorities have received news from Peking that there has been hardly any increase of Customs' revenue in all the Provinces in China since the abolition of the post of Heppo and the placing of the administration in the hands of the Viceroys. The Board of Revenue intends to appoint its own men to superintend Customs affairs in all the Provinces.

## EXPENSIVE CHAIRS.

News has reached here from Peking that three chairs were recently ordered by the Prince Regent for the Royal Family. The Imperial Household Department sent in a bill for 36,000 taels. The Regent asked whether the chairs were lined with gold! and severely reprimanded the responsible parties for this abnormal squeeze.

## OFFICIAL DECORATED.

The Throne has recently conferred on Mr. Paul H. King, Commissioner of Customs here, a medal of honour of the second degree.

## AGITATING FOR THE ABOLITION OF FAN-TAN.

The Central Government intends to enforce the Yau Fa duty in the Two Kwang Provinces in the 3rd moon of the current year and abolish Likin duty. This new tax is imposed on all kinds of merchandise, including both foreign and Chinese products. It was enforced in the Province of Chili last year. This duty will bring an enormous revenue to the Government; in all the Provinces as every kind of article will be taxed. The Local Press here demand the abolition of Fan-tan gambling in both Provinces if the Yau Fa duty is imposed.

## THE HOLOCAUST AT CANTON.

Our Canton correspondent sends the following account of the disastrous fire reported by telegram in our Monday's issue:

A big fire illuminated Canton City on Saturday night. The flower boats at Tai-sha-tau, mostly new boats that had replaced those destroyed by the typhoon last year, were ablaze, and between 9.30 p.m. and 1 a.m. the scene was indescribable. Panic reigned and those who escaped from the flames perished in the water. By noon to-day (1st inst.) 300 bodies have been recovered by the River Police and the Canton Rescue Society. Many sing-song girls were burnt alive or drowned and a number of guests, amongst whom were prominent members of the Shansi banks, several deputies of the Sin Hau Kuts, and two Tactais. Two cases full of gold bangles and jewellery were recovered from the dead bodies of the sing-song girls.

The fire originated, it is said, through the lighting of one of the kerosine lamps on board the Tsoi Kee flower boat; the flare caught some of the upper woodwork and all being very dry the fire spread rapidly owing to the strong north wind which fanned the flames.

After the typhoon last year, authority to rebuild the flower boats was obtained with great trouble, and it is likely that flower boats will now be a thing of the past. The number of lives lost is considerably more than I reported to you by cable yesterday. Although over 300 dead bodies have been recovered the number of persons still missing is reported to be close on 250. Altogether about 75 boats were totally destroyed and the value of them is estimated to be over \$250,000.

[An official report issued since, gives the number of deaths as about 500.]

## COMPANY REPORTS.

## HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE COMPANY.

The report of the Directors for the year ending 31st December, 1908, is as follows:

Gentlemen.—The Directors now beg to submit to you their report and statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

The net profit for that period amounts to ..... \$90,865.04  
To which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account ..... \$4,621.11

Making a total available for appropriation of ..... \$95,486.15

The Directors recommend that a dividend of six per cent on the capital be paid to shareholders, absorbing \$90,000.00, and that the balance of \$5,486.15 be carried to a new profit and loss account.

## ACCOUNTS.

By a resolution of shareholders passed on the 8th October last the amount of \$50,000.00 standing at the credit of equalization of dividend fund was transferred to typhoon and floods insurance fund. The amount at credit of this fund has since been reduced by \$6,738.06 which represents the amount already paid on account of damage caused by the typhoon and floods of July last. Only part of the damage has, so far, been made good, and it will be necessary to further entrench on this fund to the extent of about \$10,000.00.

## DIRECTORS.

Mr. A. G. Wood having resigned on leaving the Colony, Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar was invited to join the Board in his place. The Directors now are:—Hon. Mr. H. A. W. Slade, Dr. J. W. Noble, Messrs. J. Scott Harston, J. S. Van Buren, J. W. C. Bonnar and Ho Tung who retire, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

## AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and H. Percy Smith, F.C.A., who offer themselves for re-election.

HENRY HUMPHREYS,

Chairman.

Hongkong, 26th January, 1909.

## Balance Sheet 31st December, 1908.

## LIABILITIES.

Capital Account:—  
150,000 shares @ \$10.00 each... \$1,500,000.00  
Insurance reserve fund... 222,172.12  
Typhoon and flood insurance fund 43,261.94  
Mortgage 30,000.00  
Sundry creditors 128,043.75  
Unclaimed dividends 4,351.39  
Profit and loss account:—

Brought forward from 1907 \$ 4,621.11  
For the year 1908 90,865.04  
95,486.16  
\$2,023,315.35

## ASSETS.

Amount invested in property \$1,701,082.85  
Amount invested on mortgage 302,212.57  
Accounts receivable 17,609.55  
Fire Insurance premia unexpired 584.76  
Office furniture 528.00  
Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai 1,297.62  
Bank and on hand \$2,023,315.35

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1908.

Dr.  
To fire insurance premia \$5,687.05  
To crown rent 5,168.06  
To general charges 2,886.70  
To allowance to general managers to cover office rent and salaries of secretary and clerks 8,000.00  
To repairs 5,352.08  
To auditors fees 300.00  
To balance 95,486.15  
\$122,880.04

Cr.	
By balance brought forward from	
1907	\$4621.11
By rents	94,070.05
By interest	23,911.90
By transfer fees	186.00
By commission	90.98
	<hr/>
	\$122,880.04

### KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The twentieth report of the Board of Directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held on Tuesday, next is as follows:—

**GENTLEMEN.**—The Directors now submit to you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

The balance of profit and loss account for the year including \$653.06 balance brought forward from last account, after writing off all charges and expenses, amount to \$9,828.90. The Directors therefore recommend that a dividend of \$1.50 per share, be paid, which, after writing off the Directors' and Auditors' fees, will leave a balance of \$278.90 to be carried forward to the credit of a new Profit and Loss Account.

#### DIRECTORS.

Mr. H. Pinckney having retired, Hon. Mr. Murray Stewart was appointed in his stead. Hon. Mr. Murray Stewart having resigned, Mr. J. M. E. Machado was appointed in his stead. These appointments now require confirmation.

Messrs. A. Rodger and Mr. J. M. E. Machado retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

#### AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. J. Cox-Edwards who retires, but offers himself for re-election.

T. F. HOUGH,  
Chairman.

Hongkong, 27th January, 1809.

### BALANCE SHEET 31st December, 1908.

#### LIABILITIES

Paid-up capital	\$180,000.00
Accounts payable	313.53
Dividends outstanding	204.30
Balance of profit and loss A/c	9,828.90
	<hr/>
	\$190,346.73

#### ASSETS.

Cost of property	\$182,032.17
Cash	6,151.26
Accounts receivable	2,163.30
	<hr/>
	\$190,346.73

#### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	
To charges	8829.99
To repairs	2,844.40
To fire insurance	527.50
To Crown rent	786.00
To commission to agents	1,075.35
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—	
Directors' fees	\$500.00
Auditors' fees	50.00
Dividend of \$1.50 per share	89,000.00
To be carried to new profit and loss account	278.90
	<hr/>
	9,828.90
	<hr/>
	\$15,892.14

Cr.	
By undivided profits 1907	\$ 653.06
By rent	15,167.96
By interest	53.12
By scrip fees	18.00
	<hr/>
	\$15,892.14

A Haiphong contemporary states that the Governor-General of Indo-China intends shortly to go to Yunnan to formally open the railway to Mengtze.

### SHIPPING NOTES.

Yesterday's mail from Japan brought details of the collision of the Hokkaido Colliery steamship *Iburi-maru* with the M.M. steamer *Sydney*. It appears that the *Iburi-maru* left Uraga on Saturday morning the 23rd ult. for Yokohama, after undergoing repairs at the Uraga dock. When she arrived at a point some three miles off Kwanonsaki, she sighted the M.M. steamer *Sydney*, on her way from Yokohama to Kobe. All attempts to avert a disaster were futile, and the two vessels came into collision, the bow of the *Sydney* ramming the port-side of the *Iburi-maru*. The French vessel backed out, and the *Iburi-maru* made water rapidly until she was on the verge of sinking. The officers and crew of the *Sydney* assisted the crew of the other vessel on to the French steamer. One of the stockers and a mate were too late to scramble on board and jumped overboard with a life-buoy. They were afterwards picked up by a fishing-boat. Meanwhile the *Iburi-maru* sank. The *Sydney* having sustained some damage, she put back to Yokohama, with the captain and 37 members of the crew of the *Iburi-maru* on board. Fortunately no lives were lost. The repairs to the *Sydney* would take only two or three days to complete.

\* \* \*

The British steamer *Craigvar*, Captain B. C. Edmonds, arrived at Yokohama on the 20th ult. from Muroran, her forward compartment being full of water. The vessel, which is chartered by Messrs. Andrew Weir and Co. who by the way are also owners of the ill-fated *Adao*, left Seattle on the 15th of December last for Hongkong and Manila with a cargo of pine lumber, flour, oats, etc. Heavy weather was met crossing the Pacific, and, running short of coal, the vessel made for Muroran, off which port she arrived on the 9th instant. While entering the port, the *Japan Gazette* says, the vessel struck a submerged obstruction in mid-channel. The blow, which was only slightly felt on board, caused no apprehension, but shortly after being anchored in the harbour it was found that the vessel was making water forward and settling by the head. Divers were at once sent for, but before these had finished their inspection the vessel settled more and more and listed heavily to port, and it was determined to beach her to keep her from sinking at her anchors. By this time there was 22 feet of water in the forward hold, but steam being got up, the vessel was safely beached in a good position. The divers reported that the vessel had sustained serious damage, there being a hole 20 feet long and from 1 foot to 3 feet wide on the starboard side about 40 feet from the stem. A part of the cargo was landed and temporary repairs were made, after which the vessel came on to Yokohama for further repairs.

\* \* \*

About 1400 of the strikers at Manila returned to work on the 27th ult. under agreements signed between the union and the owners of nine launches and 98 cascos and lorcas. Senor Pedro Guevara, president of the gremio, declared himself well satisfied, stating that the concession by the shipowners is significant as a recognition of the union, for which that body had been contending as essential to the success of the strike movement. Mr. Guevara said that the average increase of pay granted the returning strikers amounts to twenty per cent. 6,300 strikers are left to be looked after by the Union.

\* \* \*

There is no information in the papers as to how the *Adato* came to be so far out of her course, but the *Japan Gazette* reports that Captain Grant, of the British sailing ship *Brilliant*, reports that on the night of the 19th when the *Adato* stranded, the weather was thick, with rain, and that there was a strong current to the eastward. The *Brilliant* was several times compelled to alter her course and haul more to the north and west. Captain Grant estimates that the current was setting to the east at fully six miles per hour. It is therefore very probable that the *Adato* on leaving Yokohama, encountered the same current, and, the night being very dark and stormy, she was set out of her course, and so met with disaster.

### FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

#### THE OPIUM COMMISSION.

Shanghai, February 1st.  
The International Commission on the Opium Question met to-day. The Viceroy (H. E. Tuan Fang) in a lengthy speech claimed that marked progress had been made towards the suppression of the opium traffic but a Government monopoly was necessary and he urged the Commission to recommend the readjustment of the treaties so as to permit of this.

When the Viceroy had finished, the French delegate asked that the deliberations should be conducted in the French language. Otherwise they would be bi-lingual.

The Chinese officials were unprepared for this demand, and the Viceroy left without replying. Bishop Brent was appointed the Chairman, and Mr. Carey, of the Imperial Maritimes Customs, Secretary.

The bi-lingual demand will be submitted to a sub-committee for consideration. It is considered unlikely that it will be granted.

General surprise was expressed that the Viceroy should have embarked on questions of general policy as it was understood that such questions were outside the scope of the inquiry.

#### THE S.S. "ADATO'S" CARGO.

Tokyo, February 1st.  
An attempt will be made to save the cargo of the s.s. *Adato* which was wrecked at Oshima in a snowstorm on January 19th.

The cargo is valued at a million Yen.

The hull of the vessel will be abandoned.

[The *Adato* had on board 2,882 bales of raw cotton, 166,744 bags of flour, and 8,458 packages of sundry goods for Kobe and Hongkong. The vessel, which was built at Glasgow ten years ago, is of 3,347 tons gross.

The *Japan Chronicle* notes that the vessel has made only three voyages to Japan, but has met with serious misfortunes on two occasions. On her first voyage she caught fire while lying alongside Kobe Pier; on the second visit, owing to some trouble with the owners, surely had to be given for an unpaid coal and provision bill before she was allowed to depart; while on the third visit she has been wrecked.]

#### JAPAN AND THE EMIGRATION QUESTIONS.

Tokyo, February 2nd.  
Baron Komura delivered a speech in the Diet to-day on the country's relations with Foreign Powers.

Baron Komura dwelt on the necessity for the extension of trade, and for the concentration of emigration to regions in the Far East, instead of having it scattered at random over distant lands.

He felt confident that the Californian affair would be settled amicably.

In the debate which ensued speakers attacked the Government's diplomacy in reference to the developments in California and claimed that the Japanese emigrant was necessary for America and free emigration was essential to the prosperity of Japan.

#### THE MANILA CARNIVAL.

Manila, February 2nd.  
The Grand Carnival opened to-day, the Band of the Rajputs playing the opening march.

The Carnival was a magnificent spectacle and immense crowds have come to Manila to witness it.

A most cordial reception was given to visitors from other ports.

The Sports commenced to-day at the Hippodrome, and the Tennis tournament was also opened.

Mr. Robert Laidlaw, a member of the British House of Commons and one of the British Commissioners to the Opium Conference, who with his daughter has been visiting Seoul, was entertained at dinner by H. E. Prince Ito at Missontag's on the 26th ult. Mr. K. Nabeshima acted as Prince Ito's representative in the absence of the distinguished host through indisposition.

## COMMERCIAL.

## IMPORTS.—

## OPIUM.

HONGKONG, Feb. 4th.—Since the 20th ult., the movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa, Patna, Benares, Persian					
Stocks on the 20th Jan., 1909	5784	2,793	735	1,162	
Jan. 21st Imports per Devanha 1909	150	20	92		
27th	" Lightning	200	200	—	
Feb 1st	" Namsang	150	200	—	
" 1st	" Nore	—	55	—	
" 1st	" Salazie	150	60	—	
" 4th	" Britannia	1,299	100	60	115
		3,859	3,543	1,830	1359

Less Exports to Shanghai	60	233	—	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	77	394	371	200
Estimated Stocks this day	3,722	2,916	1,059	1,160

Bengal.—After the complimentary sales during China New Year at \$1,105 for Patna and \$1,050 for Benares, no further business has been transacted and the market closes weak at the following nominal rates \$1,100 for Patna and \$1,050 for Benares.

Malwa.—The market opened at \$1,080.75 for two years old drug and \$1,125 for three years, but the volume of business has been small. Deliveries still continue unsatisfactory.

Persian.—Superior drug has advanced to \$1,000.

HONGKONG, February 28th

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1080	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1100	do.
Malwa Older	\$1120	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1150	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1000	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$880	do.
Patna New	\$1105	per chest.
Patna Old	\$1135	do.
Benares New	\$1060	do.
Benares Old	\$—	do.

## YARN.

HONGKONG.—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 5th February states: With the close of the native year prices appear to have touched their lowest point, for on the return of buyers to make their "New Year" congratulatory purchases better prices were offered and the large sales noted below were effected. The advance in values only amounts to fifty cents to a dollar and a half per bale, and is still much below replacing cost, but importers have been guided solely by local conditions and met the demand freely while it lasted. The market is showing signs of returning activity and we look for higher prices. Receipts are now on a smaller scale and holders are firmer, but prices are slow to move. The country is reported almost bare of stocks, and advices from the consuming districts are very satisfactory; the yearly settlement of accounts having passed off there without difficulty and proportionate confidence is apparent. The market closes steady. Bombay continues strong. Sales of the interval aggregate 18,075 bales, arrival amount to 4,132 bales, unsold stock estimated at 15,000 and sold but uncleared yarn in second hands about 23,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—No business is reported. Japanese Spinnings:—Continue quiet. Raw Cotton:—Is barely steady with a very trifling off-take in both Indian and China description. Sales reported are 99 bales new Bengal at \$24 and 94 bales China at \$29. Stocks are:—Indian 200 bales and China 175 bales. Quotations are:—Indian \$22 to \$24 and China \$24 to \$29. Exchange on India has continued steady and fluctuated between Rs. 131 and Rs. 132, and closed to-day at Rs. 132 $\frac{1}{2}$  for T/T and Rs. 133 for Post. On Shanghai 74 $\frac{1}{2}$  and on Japan 86 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The undernoted business in imported and local spinning is reported from Shanghai during the week ended the 20th ultimo, viz:—Indian:—Fully 2,000 bales have been arranged for at a small concession in price, although the general tone of the market is steady. Estimated stock landing and in godown about 16,500 bale. Japanese:—A small general business continues passing in these threads and about 800 bales are reported sold on the basis of Tls. 94 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 103 for No. 16s and Tls. 101 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 110 for No. 20s. Prices for No. 16s are easier, but for No. 20s rather higher in the absence of supplies. Local:—Owing to the approach of the China New Year nothing has been done.

## PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 28th January, 1909, state:—The Chinese New Year holidays could not have passed off more auspiciously than they have and the Native are more confident than ever that a great change for the better will take place in trade this year. With unusual promptitude have they hastened to resume business, and a goodly proportion of those who generally go home for a week or two at this period have already returned and have made their appearance on the market. Under the guise of what according to "olo custom" go under the name of "complimentary" purchases a fair amount of business went through yesterday both from stock and for near arrival, the demand and willingness to sell being much more general, but so far if hands are concerned the enquiry has been almost entirely for Manchester goods and prices seem to be on a much more satisfactory basis than for a long time past. At the same time they cannot actually be taken as a criterion of the real market, as most of the transactions must be anticipatory of the demand to come. In the natural course of things that should be delayed for two or three weeks, as China New Year was abnormally early, and on such occasions there is usually a lull before orders commence coming in from the Country. It is difficult to glean with any degree of accuracy how the business year just passed has dealt with the Natives. It must have been most disastrous to the majority, but a few have come out on the right side, notably four of the Tientsin merchants who confine their business as much as possible to this market and do not hold with the direct trade, they claim to have made from Tls. 70,000 to Tls. 125,000 each. The Native Bankers have not fared well and consequently only 58 have started this against 76 last year in these settlements, and 20, or exactly half the number that did business last year in Nantao, the suburbs of the Native City. It is therefore expected financial facilities will be considerably restricted. There is not much news in from the Country yet, but the favourable weather characteristics appear to have prevailed throughout. Nothing of especial note has been advised from Peking, the powers that be quietly living down all sinister rumours, and carrying on the Government in a fairly liberal if not very progressive spirit, which is not devoid of hope for the future. The home markets appear to have become unduly impressed with the more favourable symptoms of the market here, but must not run away with the idea that there is going to be an immediate boom. Traders here have had a very severe lesson and are going to act cautiously, until something more tangible than the illusory prospective demands they have hitherto been working on actually do turn up. Certain requirements are necessarily more or less assured and can with safety be anticipated, but there must be a limit to it until trade conditions are on a much more stable and safe a basis. Who can tell, for instance, with the slightest degree of certainty whether sterling rates are going up to 3s. Od. or down to 2s. Od. within the next six months! That is of course an extreme case, but not without possibilities. Manufacturers must for the time being exercise some restraint, and not try to rush things. Meet the demand when it comes as promptly as possible, but avoid anticipating it by running into stock. Manchester is decidedly firm and it is difficult to replace sales here. The upward trend of Cotton has continued until 5.34d. for Mid American was advised from Liverpool yesterday. To-day it comes 5.27d. for spot and 5.14d. for April/May, a private wire quoting 5.18d. for this month and next. Egyptian remains unchanged at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The market in New York appears to be excited over the prospect of orders from China and for the most part prohibitive prices are being quoted. Cotton is very firm, 9.73 cents for March option being the special quotation received privately to-day. The Yarn market has not been properly opened by the Country buyers yet. The transactions reported being purchases made in anticipation by the local dealers. Native Cotton is slightly firmer. The E-wo Auction that took place this morning appears to have been just a day or so too soon and showed a slight decline throughout, Woollens included. The small rise in Exchange at the opening yesterday seems to have rather disconcerted the market, which was quite prepared to see a smart decline, but that was upset by the vagaries of Silver. The consequence is there is no inclination to improve on previous prices, and on that basis a fair amount of business has been done, both from first hands from stock and too arrive, and in resales amongst the Natives.

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 6th February:—A few demands having come forward, the prices are declining
Quotations are:—
Saigon, Ordinary ..... \$5.60 to 5.70
" Round, Good quality ..... \$5.35 to 5.40
" Long ..... 5.50 to 5.55
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ..... \$5.70 to 5.75
" Garden, " No. 1 ..... 5.0 to 5.35
" White ..... \$5.25 to 5.30
" Fine Cargo ..... 5.30 to 5.35

## COAL.

HONGKONG, Feb. 5th.—The arrivals of coal since the 21st ultimo amounted to 48,400 tons of Japanese, 5,000 Cardiff and 5,000 Australian. The coal expected is 57,500 tons Japanese, 11,900 tons Australian, 4,100 tons Hongkong, 3,000 tons Borneo and 15,000 Wales. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff ..... \$23.50 ex-godown, sellers.
Australian ..... \$12.50 ex-godown, sellers.
Yubari Lump ..... \$12.00 Nominal.
Miki Lump ..... \$10.50 to \$11.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump ..... \$7.75 to \$9.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened \$8.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump ..... \$8.75 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.
Labuan Lump ..... \$9.00 ex-ship sellers.

## HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 5th February, 1909.

## COTTON PIECE GOODS.

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. ..... piece	\$1.85	—
7 lbs. .... "	2.25 to 2.55	
8.4 lbs. .... "	2.80 to 4.05	
10 lbs. .... "	4.15 to 5.40	
White Shirtings—54/56 reed ..	2.65 to 3.65	
58/60 .. "	3.65 to 5.95	
64/66 .. "	6.10 to 7.15	
Fine .. "	8.05 to 9.15	
Book-folds .. "	3.15 to 6.15	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..	0.50 to 2.00	
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..	1.95 to 2.20	
7 lbs. .... " Mexicans ..	2.25 to 3.85	
6 lbs. .... " Assorted ..	2.70 to 3.80	
7 lbs. .... " 8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) ..	3.20 to 4.20	
Drills, English—40 yds. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 lbs. ..	4.40 to 5.40	

## FANCY COTTONS.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. piece	1.87 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4.20
6 lbs. piece ..	0.70 to 2.00
German ..	0.60 to 0.70
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths ..	1.25 to 3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece ..	8.25 to 9.50
Assorted ..	8.40 to 9.65
Camlets—Assorted ..	12.00 to 31.00

## WHEATEN FLOUR.

Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches ..	13.00 to 19.00
Assorted ..	10.00 to 12.00

Orleans—Plain ..	10.00 to 12.00
Blankets—8 to 12 ..	0.65 to 1.50

## RAW COTTON.

Bombay ..	picul \$23.00 to \$25.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca ..	23.00 to 25.00
Shanghai and Japanese ..	24.00 to 26.00
Tungchow and Ningpo ..	24.00 to 26.00

## METALS.

Iron—Nail Rod ..	picul \$ 4.10
<

## MISCELLANEOUS—

Quicksilver, picul	169.50	to	—
Window Glass, box	5.80		
Kerosene Oil, case	—		
Saltpetre, No. 1 picul	\$11.80	to	12.40
Do. No. 2	11.40	to	11.70
Do. No. 3	10.20	to	10.90
Dayton, per bag of 50 lbs. gross	\$2.45		
Choise	2.45		
White Lily	2.45		
White Fawn	2.42		
Morjon	2.44		
Cow	2.43		
Morning Glory	2.46		
Chess	2.44		
T.H.L.	2.43		
Stove	2.43		
Sperry's XXX	3.30		
Pioneer	2.75		
Anchor	2.48		
Charm	2.48		
Junk	2.48		
Dog	2.48		
Cash	2.48		
Duck Lily	2.48		
Peerless	2.44		
Kilin	2.43		
Blue Ribbon	2.48		
Reardon	2.45		
White Rose	2.45		
Serene Sky	2.44		
Gluten	2.44		
Lobston	2.44		
Fairy Peach	2.43		
The Boss	2.43		
M. wtan Peony	2.44		
Thrush	2.43		
Three Sheep	2.43		
High Tuft	2.43		
Cat	2.65		

## EXPORTS:—

## CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG 6th February:—There is no market \$83.50—\$84.50.

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 28th January.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 38.50
Do. seconds	34.50
Buffalo hides, best selected	22.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	—
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	—
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	8.80
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	7.80
Green China Grass, Szechuen	—
Jute	3.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	11.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng	11.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	—
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	10.20
Animal Tallow	11.10
Gallnuts, usual shape	15.90
Gallnuts, plum do.	17.80
Tobacco, Tingchow	—
Tobacco, Wongkong	—
Black Bristles, Riffings	—
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	—
Turmeric	—
Sesamum Seed	5.10
Sesamum Seed Oil	8.80
Wood Oil	—
Tea Oil	—

Per M. M. steamer *Sydney*, sailed on the 3rd February, 1909. For Lyon:—60 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—30 bales raw silk. For Valencia:—1 pkge Tea. For Havre:—2 cases silks. For Marseilles:—60 bales raw silk, 1 case feathers, 14 cases human hair, 22 cases hats, 4 cases cigars, 14 cases ylang ylang. For Anvers:—1 case tobacco leaves. For Hamburg:—5 cases human hair. For London:—1 case tobacco, 175 cases provisions.

## HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 5th February, 1909.—A fair cash business has been transacted during the week, rates remaining in most cases without any material changes the only pronounced feature of the market being, a somewhat unexpected jump in China Sugar Refinery Co. shares. Exchange on London T/T closes at 1/9t, and on Shanghai at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

**BANKS.**—Hongkong & Shanghai have ruled easier and after small sales in the early part of the week at 89 $\frac{1}{4}$ , declined to 895, at which latter rate a fair number of shares changed hands; the market closing with an inclination to buy. Shanghai quotes 920 buyers at ex. 73. London remains unchanged at £86. Nationals unchanged and without business.

**MARINE INSURANCE.**—Several small lots of Unions have changed hands at 830 and the market closes very steady at that rate. North Chinas have ruled weaker with sellers at 105, while in the North they are quoted at 100 buyers; no business however has been reported and the market closes quiet. We have no further changes or business to report under this heading.

**FIRE INSURANCES.**—Hongkongs have been the medium of a fair business at 330 and at the close more shares are wanted without bringing any further sellers into the market. Chinas after a long period of inaction have found buyers at 106 at which they close steady.

**SHIPPING.**—An unsatisfied demand for Hongkong (Canton and Macaos at 29 $\frac{1}{4}$  sent the rate up to 30, at which a few shares changed hands, and at time of closing more could probably be placed at the higher rate. Shells have improved to 46/6 buyers without bringing any shares on the market. Star Ferrys are no longer in demand at quotations and close nominal. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

**REFINERIES.**—China Sugars with a sudden demand at 112 $\frac{1}{2}$ , which met with practically no response, quickly improved to 120, at which a few shares changed hands, the demand continuing however, and no more shares being available the rate further rose to 127 $\frac{1}{2}$  and later to 130, at the latter of which rates a fair number of shares have changed hands, and the market closes very steady with a further inclination to buy. The sudden rise appears to be attributable to the possibility of the cessation of bounties on Formosa sugar and other proposed legislation in connection with the sugar industry in Japan possibly to the advantage of our local industry. Luzons remain unchanged and without business.

**MINING.**—Raubs have changed hands during the week at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ , closing with buyers at the latter rate. Chinese Engineerings have improved in the North to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Charbonages continue with buyers at quotation but without business.

**DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.**—H. and W. Docks with continued sellers at 92 and no buyers at the rate fell to 91 and 90 at which two last rates a fair number of shares changed hands the market closing with further buyers at 90 but with no sellers under 91, and even at the latter rate only a few shares would be found available. Kowloon Wharfs after sales at 44 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 45, close firmer with buyers at 45. Shanghai Docks have improved in the North to 77, but we have no local sales to report. Hongkew Wharfs after touching 157 $\frac{1}{2}$  in the North close quieter at 153.

**LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS**—Hongkong lands have ruled firm and with a demand at 89 $\frac{1}{2}$  have improved to 90 with small sales at the latter rate. Humphreys have been done at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 10 and 9, closing somewhat firm with no sellers under 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ . We have nothing further to report under this heading.

**COTTON MILLS.**—Fwos have declined to 84, and Soy Chees to 277 $\frac{1}{2}$ , while Internationals have improved to 75 and Lao Kung Mows to 80. Hongkong remain with sellers at 10.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—China Borneos have advanced to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  with sales. Cements have declined to 9.75 with a fair number of sales, but close with sellers. Ropes have changed hands at 25 and China Lights at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Langk's have fallen to 860 and Watsons to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ . We have nothing further to report under this heading.

**MEMORANDA.**—The following Companies have advertised their annual meetings. The China Provident Loan and Mortgag Co. Ltd. on the 6th inst. at 11.30 a.m. Humphreys Estate and Finance Co. Ltd., on the 6th inst. at noon. The Kowloon Land and Building Co. Ltd., on the 9th inst. at noon. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Ltd., on 22nd inst. at noon. Transfer books practically close on the 6th, (Saturday), after which date no shares can be transferred until after the 22nd.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
<b>Banks—</b>		
Hongkong & S'hai...	all	\$895 \$886
National B. of China	all	\$51, buyers
<b>Marine Insurance—</b>		
Canton		\$50 \$190, sellers
China Traders		\$25 \$87 $\frac{1}{2}$ , buyers
North China		25 Tls. 105, sellers
Union		\$100 \$830, sales
Yangtsze		\$80 \$177 $\frac{1}{2}$
<b>Fire Insurances—</b>		
China Fire	20	\$106, sales
Hongkong Fire	50	\$380, sales & buy.
<b>Docks &amp; Wharves—</b>		
H. & W. Dock	all	\$91, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo	\$25	\$12, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$94, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 77
<b>Steamship Companies</b>		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$12, sellers
Douglas Steamship	all	\$34, buyers
H., Canton & M...	\$15	\$30, sales
Indo-China S. N. Co.	all	\$37, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shell Transport Co.	\$5	\$15
Taku Tug & L. Co...	21	46/6, buyers
S'hai Tug & L. Co.	Tls. 50	Tls. 47 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. Preference	Tls. 50	Tls. 51 $\frac{1}{2}$
<b>Refineries—</b>		
China Sugar	all	\$305
Luzon Sugar	all	\$17, sellers
Perak Sugar Cult...	Tls. 50	Tls. 100
<b>Wharves—</b>		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	all	\$45 $\frac{1}{2}$ , buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 155
<b>Land and Buildings—</b>		
H'kong Land Invest.	100	\$90, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$32, sellers
Wei-hai-wei Land and Building	25	Tls. 9
Humphrey's Estate	all	\$94
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$44, sellers
<b>Tramways—</b>		
The Peak Tramways	all	\$14
	\$1	\$2
<b>Mining—</b>		
Charbonnages	all	\$590, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$84, buyers
<b>Hotels Etc—</b>		
Hongkong Hotel Co.	all	\$90
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$16 $\frac{1}{2}$
<b>Dispensaries—</b>		
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$94, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$2, buyers
<b>Lighting—</b>		
Hongkong & C. Gas	all	\$200, buyers
Shanghai Gas Co...	Tls. 50	Tls. 121
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$19
<b>Miscellaneous—</b>		
G. Island Cement	10	\$9.75, sellers
H.K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$9, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$124
Union Waterboat Co.	10	\$230
H'kong Dairy Farm	\$10	\$10
Hongkong Ice Co...	all	\$18 $\frac{1}{2}$ , buyers
Robinson Piano Co...	\$50	\$59, sellers
S'hai Waterworks Co	220	Tls. 437 $\frac{1}{2}$
H'kong Rope M. Co.	all	\$25, buyers
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$10, sellers
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	5	Tls. 84
International	75	Tls. 75
Lao Kung Mow	10	Tls. 80
Soyches	500	Tls. 277 $\frac{1}{2}$
China Provident	\$10	\$10, sellers
China-Borneo Co...	\$12	\$11 $\frac{1}{2}$ , sales
Campbell, M & Co...	all	\$9, buyers
Wm. Powell, Ltd...	7	\$4, sellers
South China M. Post	\$25	\$24, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$44
Steam Laundry Co...	5	\$5
Weissmann, Ltd...	100	\$140
<b>Cigar Companies—</b>		
Philippine Co., Ltd...	\$10	\$8, sellers
Alhambra, Ltd.	\$50	Nominal

## HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

27th January, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
<b>Banks:</b>		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$922½, sales
National of China...	26	\$50
Russo-Chinese ...	R187½	Tls. 175
	T125	
<b>Insurance:</b>		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$825, buyers
North-China .....	£5	Tls. 100, buyers
Yangtze Assocn. ....	\$60	\$185, sales
Canton .....	\$50	\$195, sales
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$337½, sales
China Fire.....	\$20	\$107, sales
<b>Shipping:</b>		
Indo - China { pref.	£10	Tls. 40
Shell Trans. { def.	£1	£22.8.0
& Trading { pref.	10	£29.10.0
S'hai Tug & ord.	T50	Tls. 47½, sales
Lighter ... { pref.		Tls. 51½
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48
Kochien Transporta-	T50	Tls. 50
tion & Tow Boat		
<b>Docks &amp; Wharves:</b>		
S'hai Dock & Eng...	T100	Tls. 75, buyers
H. & W. Dock .....	\$50	\$91, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 154, ca. n.
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$45, sellers
Yangtze .....	T100	Tls. 217½
<b>Sugar Companies:</b>		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 100, buyers
China Refining.....	\$100	\$112½, buyers
<b>Mining:</b>		
Raub Australian ...	£1	£8, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 16½, buyers
<b>Lands:</b>		
S'hai Investment ..	T50	Tls. 120, sellers
H'kong Investment ..	\$100	\$93
Humphreys' Estate ..	£10	£10½
Weihsien .....	T25	Tls. 8, buyers
China .....	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French .....	T100	Tls. 103, sellers
<b>Cotton:</b>		
Ewo.....	T50	Tls. 86, cash
International .....	T75	Tls. 75, cash
Laou Kung Mow .....	T100	Tls. 80, ca. sa.
Soy Chee .....	T500	Tls. 280, sales
<b>Industrial:</b>		
Shanghai Gas .....	T50	Tls. 121, buyers
Major Brothers.....	T50	Tls. 50
Shanghai Ice.....	T25	Tls. 14
China Flour Mill ..	T50	Tls. 42, buyers
S'hai Pulp & paper	T100	Tls. 45, sellers
Green Is. Cement....	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Maatschappij, &c.,	Rs.100	Tls. 857½, ca. sal
in Langkat.....		
Shanghai - Sumatra		
Tobacco .....	T20	Tls. 125
S'hai Waterworks...	£20	T. 435, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement,	50	\$25
Tile Works .....	50	Tls. 70, buyers
Kalumpung Rubber	T100	Tls. 80, buyers
S. R'ber Estates ...	\$10	.....
Eastern Fibre .....	£10	.....
Shanghai Electric	£10	£9.0.0. sales
Construction .....		
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>		
Hall & Holtz.....	\$20	\$22½, buyers
A. Llewellyn.....	\$60	\$52, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	£11½
Central Ordinary ..	\$15	\$16½, buyers
Central Founders...	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co....	\$50	\$46, sales
Weeks & Co. ....	\$20	\$25, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$16½, buyers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 5½, sellers
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152½, buyers
Dunning & Co. ....	50	\$50, sales
S'hai Horse Bazar...	T50	Tls. 45, sales
S'hai Mercury .....	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	£50	Tls. 60, buyers
China Im. & Ex.	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Lumber .....	\$25	\$22, sellers
Shanghai Electric &		
Asbestos .....		
Dallas Horse Re-	T50	Tls. 25
pository .....		
Printing Co.....	T50	Tls. 50

Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending January 27th, say:—Since our last issue the China New Year holidays from the 22nd to the 28th have entirely interfered with business and the Stock Exchange was closed during that time. On Tuesday morning our market opened again, but there is only a very little business to report. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banks. There is no business reported, but there are buyers at \$925. Marine & Fire Ins.—A sale of Yangtze Ins. shares has taken place at \$185. Shipping.—There is no business reported. Docks & Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co. Ltd. We hear of a transaction for cash at Tls. 76 and sales for March at Tls. 77½ Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. The advance recorded in our last issue has been maintained this week. Our market opened with buyers at 152 and 154. A persistent demand has since carried the rate of Tls. 158 for cash and 158 for March, but at the close yesterday afternoon sellers prevailed at these rates. Sugar Cos.—Perak Sugar Co. Shares have been dealt in at Tls. 100. Mining.—C. E. & Mining Co. A sale has taken place at Tls. 16½. Land.—Shanghai Land are wanted at Tls. 119. Anglo-French Lands have changed hands at Tls. 103. Industrial.—Ewo Cotton.—The demand which was so persistent last week has continued, and rates at closing are Tls. 86 for cash and Tls. 88 for March. We hear of sales for June (unreported) at Tls. 90. Internationals. Business has been done at Tls. 76 for cash and Tls. 77½ for March, Laou Kung Mow have improved to Tls. 80 for cash. Soy Chees have been dealt in at Tls. 280. Maatschappij &c. in Langkawi.—This has been a very quiet market, practically nothing doing. One transaction is reported at Tls. 89 for March. At the close we would quote the rates as Tls. 862½ for cash and Tls. 890 for March sellers. Sumatras have changed hands at Tls. 127. Kalumpong Rubbers. There are buyers in the market at Tls. 70, but no shares offering. Shanghai Electric Construction Co.—There are sellers of bearer shares at £2. stg. Miscellaneous.—No changes of importance to report. Loans & Debentures.—No business reported.

## SHIPPING.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January:—

ARRIVALS.

28. Loyal, German str., from Bangkok.
29. Amiral Duperre, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
29. Barcelona, German str., from Shanghai.
29. Bujun Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
29. Chowia, German str., from Bangkok.
29. Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Pulo Laut.
29. Fukura Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
29. Hailan, British str., from Swatow.
29. Moyori Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
29. P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., from Bremen.
29. Taming, British str., from Manila.
30. Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
30. Bangkok, German str., from Bangkok.
30. Carnarvonshire, Br. str., from Shanghai.
30. Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
30. J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
30. Shosho Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
31. Aragonia, Ger. str., from Kobe.
31. Daiya Maru, Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.
31. Drufar, Nor. str., from Chinkiang.
31. Hanyang, British str., from Chefoo.
31. Mathilde, German str., from Hoihow.
31. Namsang, British str., from Singapore.
31. Saxonia, German str., from Hamburg.
31. Stettin, Br. str., from Foochow.

February:—

1. C. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
1. Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
1. Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
1. Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
1. Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
1. Kwangse, British str., from Chinkiang.
1. Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
1. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
1. Rubi, British str., from Manila.
1. Salazie, French str., from Marseilles.
1. Shinko Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
1. Tungus, Nor. str., from Chinkiang.
2. Amara, British str., from Karatsu.
2. Esang, British str., from Chinkiang.
2. Nanchang, British str., from Iloilo.
2. Taikosan M., Jap. str., from Kutchinotsu.
2. Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Amoy.
2. Yatshing, British str., from Weihaiwei.

January:—DEPARTURES.

29. Gilbert, French str., for Hoihow.
29. Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
29. Hanoi, French str., for K. C. Wan.
29. Holstein, German str., for Hoihow.
29. Nore, British str., for Yokohama.
29. Quarta, German str., for Saigon.
30. Amiral Duperre, Fr. str., for Shanghai.
30. Barcelona, German str., for Singapore.
30. Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
30. Changsha, British str., for Manila.
30. Chihli, British str., for Haiphong.
30. Korea, American str., for Shanghai.
30. Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Manila.
30. P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
30. Shinno Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
30. Solstad, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
30. Tsintau, German str., for Bangkok.
30. Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
31. Ganges, British str., for Bangkok.
31. Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.
31. Joshin Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
31. Moyori Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
31. Shibata Maru, Jap. str., for Osaka.

February:—

1. Anping, British str., for Shanghai.
1. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
1. Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.
1. Samson, German str., for Bangkok.
1. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
2. Aki Maru, Jap. str., for Seattle.
2. Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
2. Ascania, German str., for Chinkiang.
2. Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
2. C. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., for Singapore.
2. Cheongshing, British str., for Chefoo.
2. Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
2. Hinsang, British str., for Hongay.
2. J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
2. Kiangping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
2. Saxonia, German str., for Shanghai.
2. Taming, British str., for Manila.
2. Tientsin, British str., for Swatow.

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